

British Steel will make improved pay offer today

The British Steel Corporation is to put a revised pay offer to the two main steel unions today as the strike enters its sixth week. Last night the Government ruled out any prospect of accelerating legislation on secondary picketing and blacking.

Package after secret Luxembourg talks

By Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor

A revised pay offer is to be put to leaders of the two main steel unions today by the British Steel Corporation as the state industry strike goes into its sixth week.

A new package is being put together after a secret round of informal talks between the two sides at a labour affairs committee meeting in Luxembourg. The European Coal and Steel Community in Luxembourg, BSC management hope it will be enough to get full-scale negotiations resumed.

Mr Robert Scholey, chief executive of British Steel, said last night: "The period of exploration is coming to an end. I will be speaking to Bill Sirs (general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation) and I have every reason to believe that this conversation will conclude with the view that negotiations should restart."

British Steel would not give details of the revised offer, but it is certain to be an improvement on the last proposal of 8 per cent on national level and a guarantee of 4 per cent on local productivity, the whole package to be financed from job savings and higher output.

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen have said that they would not reopen negotiations until British Steel put new money "on the table".

The acid test of the prospects for peace still lies in the Confederation's readiness to call into London its 60-man negotiating committee, which was dissolved before the strike began on January 2. If the steelworkers take this step, there is some hope that the drawn-out dispute may be brought to an early conclusion.

In a day of sometimes contradictory developments in the strike, management and men from the private steel company of Hadfield's lobbied ISTC headquarters and British Steel's head office; the independent steel producers called for more rapid and tougher Government action to curb the unions; and steel union leaders told their members not to withdraw safety cover from British Steel plants.

An offer by Hadfield's management to mediate in the dispute was rejected by Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of British Steel, and as he left the corporation's headquarters, Mr Roland ("Tiny")

Rowlands, the industrialist, said: "The man is totally impossible. I am entirely on Bill Sirs's side."

"There is a light year in between Sir Charles and Bill Sirs. I would not want to be Bill Sirs to negotiate with Charles Villiers."

Several miles away Hadfield's workers, picketing their union head office, said that they had joined the private sector strike called in support of the British Steel shutdown only out of solidarity to the confederation's executives.

Mr Donald Ramage, convenor at the company's Leeds Road plant, said: "Industrial relations at our firm are great. It is time the BSC put its house in order. They and the unions should get back round the table and fight this out on their own."

Asked how long they would strike, he added: "Not very long at all."

British Steel was at pains last night to play down the impact of the decision by the South Yorkshire ISTC strike committee to pull out safety men. Management could be drafted in to keep the plant in action it said. The corporation's chief executive added: "There is no evidence that people are of a similar mind elsewhere."

Steel union officials approached by shopfloor strikers' leaders on the safety men issue reaffirmed the confederation's instructions given before the shutdown, and twice since, that essential maintenance and safety work should be carried out normally.

Mr Harry Feather, the union's strike coordinator, said: "I cannot see it spreading into other sections because we have always been very conscious of the need to keep plant in a safe condition. And I cannot see the NUB abandoning their blasphemous."

Safety cover: The Scottish steel strike coordinating committee will decide on Saturday whether they will order the withdrawal of safety cover at British Steel's strike-bound plants north of the border (Ronald Faux writes from Glasgow).

Mr Patrick Shevlin, speaking for the committee, said that an immediate ban on the movement of all steel in Scotland had been imposed and no dispensations would be given, however urgent the need for a steel delivery.

Other steel news and picture, page 2
Letters, page 15

Prior move to defuse rising Tory anger

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

In a clear attempt to defuse Tory frustration with the Government's handling of the union reforms, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, insisted yesterday that his employment Bill proposals were "strong measures" and he urged that they be passed as soon as possible.

But last night, after hearing a delegation of private steel producers complain of their plight to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Prior made clear that the Government would not be rushed into ill-considered action.

It had to consider the whole situation, not just the particular complaint of steel producers; it had to think of the long term.

"We are seeking to make changes which will last this country 15 or 20 years, and put it back into a proper industrial position where everyone can prosper," Mr Prior said outside 10 Downing Street.

Mr Prior said Mrs Thatcher had promised the steel producers at their one-hour meeting full consideration for their complaints.

New proposals for limiting unions' immunity in taking secondary action were nearly ready, Mr Prior said. But they could not bring redress in the steel strike, Mr Prior added: "I go down on my knees and pray that this dispute is not going to last very long."

Appearing unexpectedly at a morning session of the Commons standing committee on the Employment Bill, Mr Prior strongly rejected ideas that his approach was too gradualist, and that the Government was reneging on commitments.

"We are taking very strong measures which I do not think the country fully understands, and I say now quite openly that the proposals would deal with a great deal of the secondary picketing that has been taking place in recent weeks."

Tory frustration over the Government's inability to come to the rescue has been building up since last Friday's House of Lords reversal of the Appeal Court ruling by Lord Denning and his colleagues, which allowed the private sector steel strike they had prohibited.

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher was imploring at Question Time to ensure that "never again" could such a situation arise, but she could not give that assurance.

Mr Prior yesterday reiterated his promise to introduce an amendment to the committee stage which would limit unions' present legal immunity in cases of secondary industrial action.

Last night it was not clear whether Mr Prior's conservative proposals on the amendment could be produced this week as planned.

At the committee, Labour MPs initially urged that proceedings be adjourned until clarification of the immunity proposals, but they did not push it to a vote.

Mr Prior was as firm in rejecting their criticisms that he was seeking to ride roughshod over traditional union rights.

Mr Prior still seeks to prevent his law changes aborting in a classic test of defiance by the unions.

So far there is no overt sign that Mrs Thatcher and the Cabinet are weakening in their support.

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Afghan accord: The Franco-German summit meeting which ended in Paris yesterday produced a complete agreement between President Giscard d'Estaing of France (left) and Herr Helmut Schmidt on the Afghan crisis.

The two leaders, who are pictured during a luncheon after the meeting, warned Russia that if détente between East and West is not to be permanently affected she should withdraw her troops from Afghanistan.

The President and Herr Schmidt emphasized the particular responsibilities of European countries for peace and security, and the determination of their respective governments to assert them. They also expressed determination to achieve progress in the organization of the European Community within the framework of existing institutions and rules.

This assertion was a warning to Britain. President Giscard d'Estaing

and Chancellor Schmidt are agreed that Britain's budget demands should be met with firmness. This would not exclude compromise but there would be nothing agreed at the expense of "Community achievements".

Herr Schmidt considers that Britain is not as poor as she makes out and that the latest rise in oil prices will enable her to balance her payments this year.

Full report, page 8

Call to Russia to 'make it possible for everyone to participate'

EEC's attitude hardens over Olympic Games

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 5

In a clear hardening of the EEC's attitude towards participation in this summer's Olympic Games in Moscow, foreign ministers of the Nine today called on the Soviet Union to create the conditions in which it will be possible for everyone to participate.

Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, was responsible for the phrasing of this appeal but it was endorsed by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and most of the other foreign ministers present.

Even Mr Jean François Poncelet, the French Foreign Minister, whose Government up to now has not favoured using the games as a weapon against the Russians, appeared to accept that a boycott could become inevitable if Soviet troops are not withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Until today only Britain and Holland had taken a markedly tough line over participation in the games, though the Italian had indicated they would observe a boycott if it had the blessing of the rest of the Nine.

The need for the EEC to

adopt a common position on the games was urged by Signor Arturo Ruffini, the Italian Foreign Minister, and President of the Council of Ministers. Lord Carrington agreed that the EEC should take a decision "within a short time".

It looks as if a meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Rome on February 19, at which Lord Carrington will be present, will be crucial in determining the Community's final position on the Olympics. It falls one day before the deadline set by President Carter for his decision on American participation.

At the February 19 meeting the ministers are also expected to examine the implications of the internal exile of Dr Andrei Sakharov and the intensified Soviet persecution of other dissidents, and to discuss their continuing discussion of further commercial sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Today Lord Carrington and his colleagues discussed the tightening of regulations governing the export of dual-use goods to the Soviet Union, and reviewed measures already announced by the European Commission for controlling butter

and beef exports to Russia.

Last week, France and Ireland complained that the Commission had exceeded its political authority and some criticisms of Mr Roy Jenkins, the commission's president, were expected to be made today by the French and Irish ministers.

During a break in the meeting Lord Carrington told journalists that he had expressed concern at the EEC's slowness in developing a coordinated reaction to events in Afghanistan. He said he hoped the machinery of consultation could be set up to avoid such confusion in the future.

David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes: "The attitude of Western European countries will be decisive if a boycott of the Olympic Games is to be effective in the American administration's view. The next few weeks, when the national Olympic committees have to make up their minds, are therefore of critical importance."

Three options are available, as Washington sees the situation: cancellation of the games; transfer to a new site; or postponement.

The best course would be postponement, it is argued, because, apart from giving breathing space in which to make alternative arrangements, it would mean the games could still be held in Moscow next year if the Russians withdrew their troops from Afghanistan.

The United States is almost certain to boycott the games as things stand, public opinion, as expressed in the votes by the Senate and House, and in the support given to the President by the Olympic Committee, is seen as overwhelmingly against going to Moscow.

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Disident backs boycott, page 16

Kremlin braces Russians for long Afghan stay

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 5

The Soviet leadership is preparing the Russian people for a tough, drawn-out struggle in Afghanistan. In the past two days articles have appeared in the Soviet press detailing the substantial resistance still being offered by the Muslim insurgents, and giving a warning that the Afghan revolution was still in danger.

At the same time Kremlin leaders have tried to reassure a worried population at home that there have been no clashes between Soviet troops and

Afghans, and that the local population is friendly towards the Soviet forces.

In a lengthy analysis of the Afghan situation, talking point of 11 Russians at the moment, Pravda today said an undeclared war was going on in Afghanistan. Gangs of interventionists sent from abroad were raiding villages in many provinces, plundering, destroying crops, burning crops and killing people, especially party activists.

"At first it might seem that these are only sporadic, disconnected operations of bandits.

But as time passes it becomes even clearer that the counter-revolution is being master-minded and coordinated by an experienced hand."

The paper said the rebels consisting of feudal elements (supporters of the former king and President Daoud) and tribal chiefs had formed counter-revolutionary organizations in Pakistan.

The paper said 30 bases and 50 centres for training counter-revolutionary gangs had been set up there with the help of the American Central Intelligence Agency. From July,

1978, until November, 1979, some 15,000 terrorists had been trained.

China had cooperated with America in launching the struggle against Afghanistan because Peking had long ago included eastern districts of the country in a list of lost Chinese territories. Pakistani and Egyptian officers were also instructing the rebels.

"Isn't it clear how timely and necessary in these conditions was the Soviet Union's assistance to Afghan patriots?" Pravda asked.

Continued on page 8, col 6

Four Britons killed by avalanche

By Our Foreign Staff

The winter sports resort of Cervinia in north-west Italy was totally cut off yesterday by two avalanches caused by sudden warm weather. Four British holidaymakers were killed and another Briton was still missing last night. Eight people were injured.

Thirty villages were cut off by snowfalls on the Swiss side of the Alps and the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research warned skiers to avoid the slopes, even at lower levels.

The first avalanche to hit Cervinia blocked the only access road and cut telephone lines. The second knocked kindergarten houses, damaged a school, and police barracks and partially buried the Miravidi hotel.

Police identified the four dead Britons as: Andrew Jamieson, aged 40, and his wife Jackie, 32, Linda Carol Driver, 33, and David Pizer, 31, all from London.

Mr and Mrs Jamieson were found dead in a house which had collapsed under a mass of snow reaching as high as 30ft. The other couple were crushed against a wall as they were walking to their hotel.

Rescue teams dug for several hours, under a heavy snowfall, to recover the four bodies. The town is isolated and telephone lines are cut. We only get scanty information by radio. There is danger of new snowfalls, said a policeman in St Vincent, 18 miles south of Cervinia.

The Italian authorities joined the Swiss with an avalanche alert covering all the Alps and the Dolomites, the Mont Blanc already closed, the highway tunnel and blocked the highway to Austria in the Val Venosta, in Alto Adige region.

At the tailor-made French ski resort of Les Arcs, an avalanche swept away the resort's founder, Mr Robert Blanc, aged 47, father of four, he created Les Arcs in 1968 and was its sports director.

Fewer pupils aid education cuts

The projected £500m cut in spending on education in England and Wales from the continuing fall in the numbers of pupils in schools is expected to drop by an average of 30,000 to 40,000 teaching posts. All the important decisions on education spending for the next four years have now been taken by the Cabinet.

Mellish post criticized

Labour MPs voiced their displeasure in the Commons at the acceptance by Mr Robert Mellish, the party's former chief whip, of deputy chairman designate of the London Docklands Urban Development Corporation. Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House Ltd, will be the chairman.

Parliamentary report, page 6

New Soames powers

Lord Soames, Governor of Southern Rhodesia, took new powers to combat increasing political intimidation before this month's general election. He can now restrict public meetings by political parties, suspend people from campaigning and disqualify a party in areas where there is violence or coercion.

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Union levy ruling

A trade union member won the right in the High Court for members of his local branch of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs to pay their political levy to the Conservative Party.

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Terrorists kill Seveso factory executive

Four terrorists—one of them a woman—killed an executive of the factory which was responsible for the Seveso poison-cloud disaster in July, 1976. Signor Paolo Perletti, shot as he left his home at Monza, was director of production when the Seveso tragedy happened and was arrested twice during the subsequent investigations.

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UK industry gloomier

The United Kingdom's manufacturing industry is sliding deeper into recession, the latest Confederation of British Industry's quarterly survey of trends concludes. Of 2,000 companies polled, half reported they were less optimistic than four months ago.

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London Transport deadline: The Greater London Council has given London Transport two months to propose ways of improving efficiency.

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French reprisal: Paris recalls ambassador from Tripoli, accusing Libya of failing to protect embassy in Monday attack.

Page 8

Truce rejected: China has rejected Vietnam's proposal for a lunar new year border truce between the two countries as a "trick".

Page 10

Fibres imports: Britain has been given the go-ahead to introduce measures to curb the inflow of cheap synthetic fibres from the United States by the European Commission.

Page 17

Bahrain: An eight-page Special Report looks at political and economic developments in the emirate since the fall of the Shah in neighbouring Iran.

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Business News, pages 17-22
Stock markets: Cuts suffer heavy losses of up to 51 after some disappointing bank lending figures but equities manage to hold on to earlier gains. The FT index rose 2.1 to 447.8.
Financial Editor: Peering through the banking gloom: retrenchment at Associated Fisheries: small company audits.
Business features: Tony Emerson on Argentina's drive to reduce inflation: Brian Capstick questions the practicality of proposals to curb secondary industrial action.
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Sharp rise in lending ends hopes of cut in MLR

By John Whitmore

Any lingering hopes of a reduction in the Bank of England's Minimum Lending Rate ahead of the Budget were effectively dashed yesterday by January banking figures showing a further sharp rise in private sector loan demand.

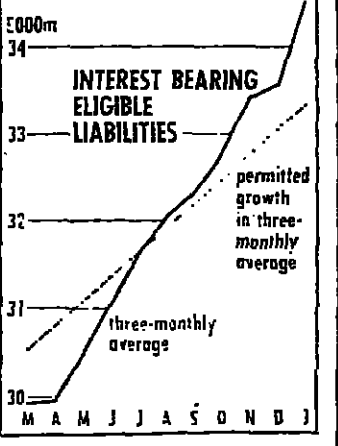
The figures came as a surprise in the City and must be a cause for some concern to the Government. Though the Government still appears to be keeping the main monetary measure, sterling M3, under some semblance of control, it is only managing to do this through the expedient of increasingly large and costly sales of gilt-edged stocks.

The Government has always stressed that its monetary policy needed time to take effect, particularly at a stage in the cycle when the continuing acceleration in price inflation was bound to be increasing the amount of cash companies needed to finance even an unchanged level of stocks.

Even so, the indication that the underlying increase in bank lending may well have been over £1,000m last month is unenviable. The authorities must now be desperately hoping that the January figure represents the last big surge in private sector credit demand.

Certainly, there are at least some grounds for thinking that such hopes could prove to be justified. There are already signs that credit demand from the private sector is starting to ease. In that case, it may well be that industry has been left carrying much larger stocks than it had expected and is temporarily having to finance this higher stock level.

An additional factor last month—the banking month covered the five weeks to January 16—may have been that some companies built up stocks in anticipation of the steel strike. The monetary authorities are treading fairly gingerly, however, in their interpretation of events at this stage. What is clear is that they will need to see several months of substantial improvement in



the trend before they are likely to contemplate a cut in MLR.

Although there had been some hope in the City that MLR might be cut towards the end of February, the general assumption recently has been that the Government would hold back any reduction in MLR until the Budget. The main reason behind this has been that the last thing the Government wanted to do was to risk cutting interest rates too early; also that the promise of lower interest rates would be one of the few sweeteners that the Government would be able to offer in what is commonly expected to be a tough Budget.

The main question now could centre on whether or not the Chancellor will be able to hold out the prospect of lower interest rates immediately after the Budget. Indicated sterling M3 growth of about 1 per cent in January still leaves the money supply expanding at a annualized rate rather higher than the present 7.1 per cent target. If the projected Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for the coming financial year is forecast to expand significantly in nominal terms (say to £10,000m or more), then the authorities may still want to hold interest rates high until they have made a start of their new funding Tables, page 20

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HOME NEWS

Branch can pay political levy to Conservative Party but union can refuse payment to branch

By Frances Gibb

A trade union member won the right in the High Court yesterday for members of his local branch to pay their political levy to the Conservative Party, although their union is affiliated to the Labour Party.

Mr Ernest Parkin, a senior technologist at Kodak Ltd. of Harrow, sued his union, the 450,000-member Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, for a declaration that the union's affiliation to the Labour Party did not of itself limit the use to which political funds might be put.

The union had refused to pay over the money to which the branch was entitled, namely one third of the total political levy contributed by that branch, because the branch had resolved that it should go to the Conservative Party.

The union had given as its reason a circular dated March, 1976, signed by Mr Clive Jenkins, its general secretary. In that Mr Jenkins had said political fund money could not be used in support of parties other than the Labour Party.

The union's annual delegate conference had decided in 1970 to affiliate to the Labour Party and it was a condition of affiliation that affiliates should not at the same time support a rival party.

Mr Justice Woolf said he had looked at the Labour Party's constitution and standing orders as amended by the annual conference in Brighton in 1977. He added: "I can see nothing in that constitution which supports Mr Jenkins's view that an affiliate might not at the same time support a rival electoral party."

Afterwards Mr Parkin said the way was now open for other branches supporting the Conservative Party to take similar action. He added: "The union virtually ignores that a majority of the members in certain branches would always vote Conservative or Liberal."

"It tries to impose on its members the left-wing and Marxist policies of people at the top, who are unrepresentative of the union as a whole." The case was a big step towards democratising the union.

On the relationship between a branch and the union's national executive, Mr Justice Woolf said he could not see that the fact that the union's rules expressly made the annual conference the supreme body, and gave considerable powers to the executive, enabled the executive to say a branch was debarred from using its political levy as it wished.

To say a branch was limited in that way was inconsistent with the local autonomy the branch was intended to have as set out in the union's rules. He emphasized that his ruling did not mean that the union could not prevent a branch making a contribution in the future. It might be open to the union to change its rules.

On the other declaration sought by Mr Parkin, that the union should be ordered to hand over the appropriate portion of the levy, the judge ruled in favour of the union.

The purposes for which the money was requested, as outlined in the resolution of the branch, were not political objects as defined in the union's rules, in turn drawn from the Trade Union Act, 1913, the judge said.

The purposes were: to promote a better understanding of the policies and aims of Conservative trade unionists within the

servative Party to take similar action. He added: "The union virtually ignores that a majority of the members in certain branches would always vote Conservative or Liberal."

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The purposes were: to promote a better understanding of the policies and aims of Conservative trade unionists within the

union and to ensure the cooperation and help of Conservative trade union MPs who are not at present allowed to be represented on the union's Parliamentary committee.

The judge ruled that while the first part of the resolution could be taken to fall within the meaning of the Act and the union's rules, the second part could not.

He added: "I consider the union is right in saying that it does not fall within the limited political objects in the Act and the union's rules, the second part could not."

On that basis it would be wrong, he said, to order payment to be made. He ordered each side to pay its costs and gave both leave to appeal against the respective judgments.

ASTMS said it could not comment until the ruling had been studied in detail. It might make a statement today.

Mr Clive Jenkins said that the union would appeal against the ruling, and would also consider changing its rules if that proved necessary.

"This is another piece of eccentric judicial invention. We expect to have it set aside because it flies in the face of history and common sense," he said. No money would go from the union to the Conservative Party. He denied that the elected officers of the union did not represent the membership.

"I have only ever heard of two tiny branches in the association which are sympathetic to the Conservative Party. Who can be sympathetic to them these days?"

Law Report, page 23



M Jean-Marc Boivin, of France, an Alpine guide and winner of the 1980 International Award for Valour in Sport, being congratulated by his wife at Guildhall, London, yesterday (Report, page 11).

Minority dictating on abortions, MP says

By Annabel Ferriman

A vociferous minority opposed to abortion is trying to dictate to the majority in the country what the law should be, Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party and sponsor of the Abortion Act, 1967, told a rally in London yesterday.

He said he appreciated that many people had the sincerely held view that abortion was wrong, but the law did not require anyone to have an abortion, and those opposed to abortion should not try to impose their views on others.

Before the 1967 Act, estimates of illegal abortion varied from 40,000 to 200,000, although safe abortion was available to the rich in private clinics. Since the Act, illegal and dangerous abortions had almost disappeared.

Supporters of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill were going to bring back the dark days of back street abortion butchery, he said. Opponents of the Bill were not in favour of abortion, but recognized that it was sometimes necessary.

She said that they could only win the majority on their side if they could claim that women were being exploited by money-hungry doctors. The charities had destroyed those stories, and therefore lost their support.

Leading article and letters, page 15

Abortion argument, page 10

Blunt spying cover-up 'accidental'

By Nicholas Timmins

There was no political cover-up over the confession in 1964 by Professor Anthony Blunt that he had been a spy for the Russians, Mr Andrew Boyle, author of the book *The Climax of Treason*, which led to Professor Blunt's public unmasking, said yesterday.

"If there was a cover-up it was not political," Mr Boyle told a meeting of the Media Society in London. "It was more like a purely buffoonish MIS accidental cover-up that was less than wise."

Lord Home of the Mircels' ministry was not at fault when he said he had not been told of the confession when he was Prime Minister in 1964. Nor was Sir Harold Wilson told until 1967.

Mr Boyle said that when the Profumo affair was revealed, the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan, "took it very, very seriously on MIS, too severely," because of "his own personal hang-ups" about Profumo's "bedroom behaviour".

Until then MIS had some "extraordinary good things to its credit". Vassall, Lonsdale and the Portland spy ring, but after the Profumo affair "MIS took the position that a low profile was necessary".

When Professor Blunt confessed, Sir Roger Hollis, then head of MIS, did not tell Lord Home. He did tell the Attorney General, Sir John Hobson (and Mrs Thatcher has said that the Home Secretary, then Mr Henry Brooke, was also told).

It was put to Sir John that the matter was not one of singular importance, but "it was also put to him that it was a matter that should not be brought to the Prime Minister's attention".

A general election came soon afterwards, and Sir Harold Wilson's cabinet was not told. Sir Harold was told in 1967, in his second term, but there were ways and ways of telling someone, Mr Boyle said.

Mr Boyle said that Sir Frederick, now Lord, Elwyn-Jones, the Attorney General in the 1960s, "did not know at all during his two terms, although he was the first man who should have been told".

Mr Boyle said he did not believe that Mr Guy Liddell, former deputy director of MI5, was a Soviet agent. Mr Boyle recently published an interview with Mr Goranvay Rees, given just before his death, in which he suggested that there were links between Professor Blunt, Guy Burgess and Mr Liddell.

Mr Boyle added, but "I do not think he was a Soviet agent at all."

London Transport told to make proposals for savings

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

London Transport, accused of extravagance and waste, has been given two months by the Greater London Council to put forward proposals for improving efficiency and saving money.

The decision was taken by the council's policy and resources committee when it met yesterday to discuss a report by a firm of independent auditors, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, into allegations made by Mr Leslie Chapman, a former civil servant and now part-time member of the London Transport Board.

Mr Chapman had complained of disgraceful waste in the number of chauffeur-driven limousines and the cost of catering and had suggested that savings of between £25m and £50m could be made.

A report to the council recommending the submission of proposals within two months for which it had statutory duty. "It is quite clear to me that the differences between Mr Chapman and the LT Executive are mainly of quantity and degree; but equally clearly there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the executive have a substantial managerial job to do very quickly indeed."

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the figures were exaggerated. Deloitte, Haskins and Sells do not, however, agree with some of his conclusions, particularly where they have compared costs with those for other nationalized industries.

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The executive accepted that London Transport was too bureaucratic and that there had been considerable increases in supervisory and management grades, but the auditors said it is not possible to confirm the allegation that the numbers had grown unreasonably.

Regarding the charge of complacency, the report concludes: "It cannot be said that the LT managers are complacent when the executive and a considerable number of managers are actively seeking reorganization."

Mr Andrew McIntosh, Labour transport spokesman, told the committee yesterday that he was bitterly disappointed by Mr Chapman's allegations. "He concentrated almost entirely on trivia."

There was no real detail about how £25m-£50m could be saved, Mr McIntosh said. A saving of £25m on staff would mean a reduction of 5 per cent or 3,000 employees. Sir Reg Goodwin, leader of the Labour opposition, said he doubted whether the report would help London Transport in their search for savings.

Student finance made more accountable

By Our Education Correspondent

A fundamental change in the financing of student unions at universities and colleges from September next year was announced by Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in the House of Commons yesterday.

The change was intended to make the present open-ended system of student union financing more accountable, he said. Public expenditure on student unions rose from £3m to £13m between 1970 and 1976.

Instead of student union fees being paid through the student award system, they will be financed directly through the University Grants Committee in the case of universities and through the local education authorities in the case of polytechnics and other maintained colleges.

The student union fee under the present system is an automatic part of the mandatory student award paid to nearly all students on advanced courses, normally is paid directly to the student's college.

There is no means by which central or local government can control the level of the student union fee which is determined by each university or college and which ranges from 50p to more than £50 a

year, depending on the variety and extent of the activities undertaken by the student union.

Some unions have been accused of spending public funds on suspect political activities such as sending buses of supporters to the Grunwick picket line. The Commons Public Accounts Committee has criticized the lack of accountability of union financing.

Mr Carlisle said yesterday that the total amount of money for student unions in 1981/82, the first year of the new system, would be the same as that which would have been made available through the existing arrangements.

He gave no undertaking about levels of funding in future years when union financing will be absorbed within the university recurrent grant.

He hoped, however, that "with the requirements of these new arrangements, institutions will continue to afford their unions freedom in the management of their affairs".

Mr Trevor Phillips, president of the National Union of Students welcomed the recognition of the right of students to decide how to spend their money, but said there would have to be further negotiations if internal conflicts between student unions and colleges were to be avoided.

Cooling time for tensions at Stormont

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

The political temperature at the Ulster constitutional conference was allowed to cool yesterday as delegates left Stormont in silence for a two-week respite. But the official news clampdown barely concealed the tensions still bedeviling the prospects for progress.

All that was achieved yesterday was an agreement to meet on two extra days this month, which was announced with a simultaneous denial from the Northern Ireland Office that there was any pressure from Downing Street to speed matters.

There was further discussion yesterday of the Social Democratic and Labour Party's position on what is called "the modus operandi of a future Administration", a phrase coining the true nature of the subject under discussion, that of power sharing.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is keeping Mrs Margaret Thatcher informed of developments, but so far there has been no report before the Cabinet; indeed, Northern Ireland matters are rarely referred to the entire Cabinet but go instead to a nucleus of relevant senior ministers.

The battle lines have clearly been drawn and the conference remains in acute difficulties, with no obvious hope of closing the gap between the SDLP and the Democratic Unionists over power sharing.

The essential question is whether the SDLP should have a right of representation at executive level in a devolved Administration.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, says flatly that he will not work with such a system, even if it was approved by referendum. The SDLP says that without such protection it would prefer Westminster not to hand back powers to the local councils.

Mr Paisley was in Scotland yesterday and none of the DUP delegates would break the silence over the party's response to the SDLP's position. Delegates of the three participating parties have until February 27 to reassess their positions.

London Transport told to make proposals for savings

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

London Transport, accused of extravagance and waste, has been given two months by the Greater London Council to put forward proposals for improving efficiency and saving money.

The decision was taken by the council's policy and resources committee when it met yesterday to discuss a report by a firm of independent auditors, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, into allegations made by Mr Leslie Chapman, a former civil servant and now part-time member of the London Transport Board.

Mr Chapman had complained of disgraceful waste in the number of chauffeur-driven limousines and the cost of catering and had suggested that savings of between £25m and £50m could be made.

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Post Office deadlock on worker directors

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Negotiations between the Post Office and unions to decide on a new form of industrial democracy within the corporation have broken down, with the unions restating to the Government their demands for seats on the main board.

The two-year experiment, with worker-directors sitting on the Post Office board, came to an end in December after Sir William Barlow, chairman of the corporation, had insisted that the system had proved unworkable.

In its place Sir William wanted to establish two policy councils that would mirror the reorganized boards when the Post Office is split into telecommunications and postal businesses.

Since the Government announced that the experiment was ending, negotiations have been going on with union leaders who rejected the proposed policy councils.

A further meeting between the two sides was due to be held last week, but was called off because there was little prospect of progress being made.

The Council of Post Office Unions has now written to Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, setting out the unions' position.

Sir William has also written to the Government setting out his strong objections to having union representatives on the board, which, he argues, hampered and delayed policy-making. He was so determined to

threaten the experiment that he threatened to resign if the Government did not agree.

The unions were not completely happy with the experiment. They felt that the board was being used as a rubber stamp for decisions already taken. They want any new scheme to be "genuine industrial democracy".

While maintaining their negotiating stance of seeking main board seats, union officials privately accept that Sir William will be backed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry. As a compromise, they believe that there is scope for union involvement at a level between the main board and the proposed policy councils.

A prime union objective is for their representatives to have access to all relevant documents before any decision is taken and to be in a position to influence policy-making.

Sir William's objection to union participation at the highest level is that too much time is taken up by discussions on questions of pay and conditions of work, which should more properly be dealt with during pay negotiations.

Both sides are waiting for an initiative from the Government. Union officials believe ministers want to see some workable form of industrial democracy introduced at the Post Office as soon as possible.

The difficulty facing them is that they have stated publicly that management of the Post Office must be left in the hands of Sir William and his colleagues and that they do not want to interfere.

Government 'should protect NHS and social services'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government should abolish the Christmas bonus for pensioners and use the money to protect the social services, Mr Hugh Mellor, director of the National Corporation for the Care of Old People, said in London yesterday.

There should also be a further education cut to save "the wretched National Health Service".

Mr Mellor told the "Ageing in the 1980s" conference, sponsored by the Social Services Association, that the Government should support saving money on housing to maintain at least present levels of health and social services; but "even that is not being achieved" as the recent public expenditure White Paper showed.

The Christmas bonus went to many who had no need of the money and many saw it as a rather sentimental political gimmick, Mr Mellor said. Its abolition would more than meet the £88m cut applied in the White Paper to the personal social services.

A more difficult way would be to apply a fractionally larger cut to education, since the ch'd population was falling. The health service, which needed more money simply to cope with population changes, could then be saved.

The cuts being applied in the social services were a tragic waste, particularly the closing of old people's homes that provided emergency services. The moral and emotional climate that led to the welfare state being established should be re-created.

All parties should accept that there were certain minimum standards in social services that would be maintained in all circumstances, including the "economic stop-go" from which they had suffered for many years.

Mr Mellor added: "We do not cut the Christmas bonus, but we do cut the welfare state. We still stick to a minimum subsistence level for supplementary benefits, although I know that some might challenge that statement."

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'Life' for man who left work to kill his wife

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham

Leslie James, aged 36, a garage worker, who was said to have taken half an hour off work to kill his estranged wife, was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for life.

He was convicted of murdering his wife, Jennifer, aged 33, by stabbing her three times and then beating her as she lay dying.

Mr James, of Hornsby Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, had denied murdering his wife, but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of provocation, a plea the prosecution refused to accept.

Headmaster stole from school fund

From Our Correspondent

Portsmouth

Gareth Young, aged 47, headmaster of Bosmere Middle School, at Havant, Hampshire, who was said to have stolen money from a school fund, was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, by magistrates at Havant yesterday. He was also fined £1,000.

He admitted four charges of theft and asked for 10 offences to be considered.

Mr Young, of Harold Road, Hayling Island, was said to have taken £375 over several years from a special fund intended for buying school extras.

Eton boarding fees rise to £1,050 a term

By Our Education Correspondent

Boarding fees at Eton have gone up by nearly a quarter, from £850 to £1,050 a term, or £3,150 a year. Another big increase is likely in September, when teachers' salaries are expected to go up substantially as a result of the Clegg commission's report. Eton is one of the five most expensive schools in Britain.

An article by a pupil in the latest issue of the school magazine suggests that a differential fee based on a means test of parental income might be introduced to help less affluent parents. However, Mr Michael McCrum, the Provost, said yesterday that he was not in favour of that.

The main reason for the higher fees was the rise in the oil price and the 25 per cent increase in masters' salaries last September after two years of "scrupulous adherence" to the Government's pay guidelines, Mr McCrum said.

The school had taken several steps to reduce its costs, he said. The letting of boys' houses during the summer holidays is bringing in about £30,000 a year. Changing the oil-fired heating system to gas is expected to cut the £250,000 annual fuel bill by £100,000.

Hidden costs 'ignored' in Stansted choice

By Our Planning Reporter

The choice of Stansted as London's third airport ignored the hidden costs of urbanization in the wrong place, speakers at a seminar organized by the Royal Town Planning Institute said yesterday.

Mr Derek Senior, a member of the council of the Town and Country Planning Association, pointed out that not only would the loss of agricultural land be much greater at Stansted than at Mapplethorpe, both in Essex, but far more would have to be spent on housing, roads, schools and infrastructure. Some 70,000 extra homes would be needed in the Stansted area, compared with 40,000 at Mapplethorpe.

It had been estimated that about 44,000 people in south-east Essex would be employed locally. But only 14,000 people would hope to find jobs in Stansted.

Unemployment in south-east Essex was about 6 per cent, well above the average for south-east England so there was a large pool of available labour already housed in the Mapplethorpe area. Stansted would need to recruit much of its work force from outside.

The loss of agricultural land at Mapplethorpe would be only 2,000 hectares, compared with more than 6,000 hectares at Stansted.

Another rise is forecast for BR rail fares

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

There could be a general rise in rail fares before the end of the year, British Rail said yesterday. The latest increase, an average of one fifth, took effect last month.

In previous years British Rail has accompanied increases with promises or declarations of intent to peg prices for the rest of the year. British Rail said yesterday that that was not possible this year, with the effects of the Budget, the March pay round and possible fuel price

increases still impossible to foresee.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, told a meeting of London commuters on Monday night that services would deteriorate throughout the 1980s unless £1,800m was invested in London and the South-east. That is double the amount earmarked for the area's rail services.

Sir Peter said British Rail was still far from the standards it was seeking, but "the going is bound to get rougher in financial terms" as the Government tightened cash limits.

DPP may give evidence to committee on deaths

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, may after all give oral evidence to the Select Committee on Home Affairs, which is examining the question of deaths in police custody. A final decision has yet to be reached.

Sir Thomas has submitted written evidence to the committee. It sets out in broad terms the procedures he applies and the factors he takes into account when dealing with a case in which possible criminal liability by police is involved.

The evidence was available to the select committee at the beginning of its latest meeting on Monday, but was not issued to reporters, even though I asked whether any written submissions were being provided for us.

It is normal practice to issue to reporters at the committee's meetings submissions by witnesses appearing before it.

There remains the possibility that the DPP's evidence will

be made available if he gives oral evidence. Should he not do so, the committee has three choices. The most likely move would be to publish the evidence with its report. Another possibility would be to publish his evidence separately before the committee reports.

Given the obvious desire of MPs on the committee to explore the subject fully, a third possibility, not to publish the evidence of the DPP at all, hardly seems on the cards.



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HOME NEWS

Group fails to get ban on nuclear fuels action lifted

By Trevor Fishlock

Greenpeace, the environmental action group, yesterday challenged a High Court order which prevents its members from attempting to stop ships unloading spent nuclear fuels, but failed to get the injunction lifted.

The group believes that shipment and unloading of nuclear matter in populated areas is hazardous.

Some of its members wanted to stop the unloading of 49 tons of nuclear waste from the ship Pacific Swan, owned by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, which docked at Barrow-in-Furness last month.

But on January 24 the British Transport Docks Board obtained an injunction preventing Greenpeace members from "causing or encouraging any physical obstruction which might impede the free movement of vessels in or out of Barrow".

The board successfully resisted an application by Greenpeace to Mr Justice Lloyd in the High Court yesterday that the hearing should be in public.

The board said afterwards that one of the reasons it wanted the hearing held in private was that it did not want Greenpeace to gain publicity.

The Greenpeace group was ordered to pay the board's costs.

Three Greenpeace representatives, Mr Peter Wilkinson, Mr

Allan Thornton and Mr David McTaggart, refused to give an undertaking not to take further action to try to prevent the unloading of nuclear waste cargoes.

Mr Wilkinson said afterwards: "We have no intention of using violent action. It is our intention to use peaceful means, but the injunction really prevents us from doing anything other than standing on the dockside silently holding our banners."

"I have been advised that it would be illegal for me to speak to dock workers warning them of the danger and asking them not to unload."

"Our freedom of speech has been restricted. We cannot lobby or take direct action. That is why we refused to give the undertaking to the judge; this is too important for us to be subject to an injunction."

Greenpeace sent its small ship, Rainbow Warrior, to Cherbourg last month in the hope that it would be able to prevent the Pacific Swan unloading there, but the Pacific Swan went on to Barrow-in-Furness.

The authorities in Cherbourg ordered the Rainbow Warrior to leave the harbour yesterday. Mr Wilkinson said: "The ship will be withdrawn while we reconsider our plans."

Another shipment of spent nuclear fuel is on its way to Barrow, and will want to take peaceful action

Sir Derek Rayner leads statistical services' review Cabinet war on Whitehall waste

By Peter Hennessy

The Government has commissioned a review of Whitehall's statistical services. It is to be undertaken by Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste.

It will concentrate on what the 562 statisticians and 5,775 support staff in the Government Statistical Service do in the departments they serve and whether their customers get value for money. An official will be appointed by each department to carry out the review on Sir Derek's behalf under his supervision.

As with every "Rayner scrutiny programme", as they are described, the first question to be asked of each example of statistical provision will be: "Is this work really necessary?" Each departmental examination will cover:

(1) The total cost of the statistical services; (2) the costs and benefits of individual examples; (3) areas where figures should be available but are not; (4) areas where the demand for statistics could be eliminated or reduced; (5) reduction of costs through more efficient working practices; and (6) an identification of these services' consumers.

The largest concentrations of statistical work are Customs and Excise (eight statisticians, 1,100 support staff); Business Statistics Office (19 statisticians, 1,000 support staff); Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (31 statisticians, 900 support staff); Department of the Environment (68 statisticians, 350 support staff); Department of Employment (38 statisticians, 300 support staff) and Department of Health and Social Security (37 statisticians, 250 support staff).

The review will also encompass the Central Statistical Office of the Cabinet Office, which employs 74 statisticians and 170 support staff. Mr John Boreham, Director of the office and head of the Government Statistical Service, said yesterday: "I welcome the inquiry because I think it extremely important that the Government is confident that it has a relevant, effective and economic statistical service."



Mr John Boreham: "Very pleased about inquiry."

Cuts endanger old and disabled, report says

By Pat Healy

Elderly and disabled people will be put at risk as a result of proposed cuts in social and voluntary services, the Personal Social Services Codicil says. Its latest monitoring report says the only apparent gainers from the cuts may be private sector homes.

Private homes may appear to be an area for expansion and many provide excellent care, the council says, but it gives a warning against copying the pattern elsewhere.

"Those responsible for services should take careful notice of the disastrous results of the rapid growth of the profit-making private nursing home sector in the United States without adequate registration and inspection safeguards", the report says.

Horror stories of poor treatment, poor facilities and exploitation for gain by unscrupulous speculators necessitated the present overdue strengthening of United States law.

Expansion of the private sector in Britain is the logical consequence of the pattern of cuts by local authorities which the council has been monitoring

for more than six months.

The first report, which included that government policy on social services was being thwarted by the need for cuts, was published shortly before the Government announced that the council would be abolished this year.

The new report, based on evidence from 85 of 116 social services authorities, shows that earlier trends are confirmed. In the absence of firm guidance from the Government over how specific groups of people should be protected, most authorities are applying cuts evenly across the board.

That will mean that services for the elderly and handicapped will be most affected because they form the greatest part of social services and the numbers of elderly and disabled people needing them are rising.

Most authorities are reducing sharply their residential services, a process that will limit the number of places in homes for elderly and disabled people. Most authorities are also cutting back on day care and services in the home that help elderly and disabled people to continue to live in their own homes.

Swift action sought on prison reform

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Swift action is being sought from Home Office ministers by reform prisoners after a survey that disclosed strong support for reformation from a variety of organizations.

The survey, conducted by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, sought opinions about the proposals made in September, 1978, by the House of Commons Select Committee on the Reduction of Pressure on the Prison System.

Miss Janet Fookes, MP, who chaired the subcommittee which prepared the report, said yesterday that she would seek an early meeting with Home Office ministers.

"The folly of keeping a person in prison unnecessarily is underlined by the latest expenditure figure, announced by the Minister of State, Mr Leon Brittan, in the Commons last week, of over £5,800 per prisoner per year."

Proposals that attracted particularly strong support from the organizations included one that the Department of Health and Social Security should accept more responsibility for accommodating mentally disordered offenders.

Many of those questioned in the survey thought that more day centres and hostels should be provided as alternatives to prison and that overnight "drying out" centres associated with counselling facilities should be considered for drunken offenders.

Other beliefs were that more senior attendance centres should be established; that efforts should be made to increase the use of open prisons; and that the operation of community service orders should be expanded further. A proposal that found wide support was for an independent inquiry into the parole system.

It was also felt that there should be an early assessment of every prisoner's employment prospects.

BBC must give a good service and live within its means, staff told

By Kenneth Gosling

On the day that the Government is to announce details of its Broadcasting Bill, Mr Ian Trethowan, director-general of the BBC, today sets out to the corporation's 8,000 staff the requirements for an efficient operation over the next decade.

He writes in the staff journal, *Ariel*, that the aim of the BBC's continued reexamination of its domestic operation over the next few weeks will be "to ensure that we can continue to sustain the kind of television and radio services that the licence payer expects, yet live within our means". He does not rule out redundancies.

Mr Trethowan says that with a £34 licence the BBC will be able to spend £1,000m on the domestic services over the next two years; "even in these inflationary times that is a lot of money".

But allowing about 15 per cent a year for inflation, the BBC wanted to spend a further £100m, so planned expenditure was having to be cut by at least that amount. It had asked for £40 licence and got £34 for the next two financial years, which was the biggest increase in its history.

It might have been possible to carry on without many cuts if it were not for pay; even before any negotiated general increase, outstanding awards and claims would take a slice of the available money.

The first priority was to reinforce the television networks. Within three years the second commercial channel was due, and many more commercial radio stations, and within only a few more years they would be feeling the growing effect of a whole range of technological developments, Mr Trethowan said.

"By the end of this decade broadcasting will be very different and the BBC's share of it will be markedly smaller. If we are to hold our distinctive place in society, therefore, we must recognize that the decisions we take now could affect the whole future of the BBC's services to the public."

"I know that uncertainty is bad for morale, but wrong decisions now could in due course bring irreparable damage to the BBC and to the interests of its staff."

Remembering that they had "a billion pounds" to spend, the cuts, though painful, should

be seen in perspective; and a considerable slice could be found by dropping a number of new developments planned for the next two years, Mr Trethowan said.

"But we do not believe we should forgo all developments, or simply opt for a policy of equality of misery. That would be a recipe for stagnation. A creative organization had to have the flexibility to grow in areas of promise even if it meant cutting somewhere else."

Expenditure over the past two years was: 1978-79, £324m; 1979-80, £406m. Over the next two years it would be: 1980-81, £475m; 1981-82, £535m.

Redundancies could not be ruled out, but they knew that at any one time there were hundreds of vacant posts and that each year staff turnover averaged 3,000. Every effort would be made to save posts by natural wastage.

Referring to newspaper reports and internal rumours about staff cuts, he was not specific about the kind of broadcasting areas that might be affected by cuts, but said in the radio services, including daytime restrictions on Radio 3, have been reported, but none has been confirmed.

Canister fumes affect seven

A renewed warning was issued yesterday about the danger of fumes from poison canisters being washed on to south coast beaches, after two policemen and five Southern Water Authority employees were treated in hospital.

The seven men were later discharged. All had been affected by fumes, although they were some distance from a canister washed up on the beach at Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. The canister was split down the seam.

As more canisters from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky were washed up on Sussex beaches, the public were warned not to approach them.

On the Isle of Wight, where hundreds of chemical canisters have been washed ashore, firemen dealt yesterday with four more cases.

Commenting on a report by the housing development directorate of the Department of the Environment, he said it showed that where housebuilders had built smaller new homes at relatively high densities they had been able to bring prices down and to meet the needs of single people and those setting up home for the first time.

About half of all households are made up of one or two people, and their number is increasing by nearly 200,000 a year.

Of the existing housing stock, only 10 per cent is in one-bedroom units and most of those are for rent, not for sale. Only about 4 per cent of new private sector building for sale is in one-bedroom units.

"Clearly there is unmet demand for small, low-cost homes", Mr Stanley said.

The report shows that most purchases of starter homes were a great improvement on their previous accommodation. Many had been sharing with in-laws or paying high rents in the private sector, and had low priority on local authority waiting lists.

Starter Homes (Stationary Office, £2.25).

'World's biggest bankrupt' gets £2,000 for libel

Mr William Stern, a former property developer and £106m bankrupt, was awarded £2,000 libel damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Stern, aged 44, of Westbeath Avenue, Golders Green, London, whose family financed his claim, said afterwards that the money would go to his creditors.

He sued Mr Jacques Beauprez, a chartered accountant, for an attack on his honesty and integrity. Mr Beauprez was said to have written letters accusing Mr Stern of trying to buy back the assets of one of his liquidated companies at "artificially low prices" and in a secretive and underhand way.

Mr Stern, who admitted during the hearing that he was probably "the world's biggest bankrupt", claimed that the reputation was his one remaining asset.

Mr Beauprez, of Sheen Court, Upper Richmond Road, Richmond, represented himself. As he left the court he said: "It is the end of a nightmare. He will have to pay costs, which will be estimated at £12,000, in addition to the damages."

Mr Beauprez gave an undertaking to obey an injunction restraining him from repeating the libel. Mr Justice Cantley said: "You have got to get rid of this obsession."

Car micro-processors 'a mixed blessing'

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

The increasing use of micro-processors in cars could prove a mixed blessing for motorists unless manufacturers were prepared to rationalize their designs, Mr Olaf Lambert, director-general of the Automobile Association, said yesterday.

While the new electronic technology would probably result in cars that were quieter, more economical and more reliable, it could also make repairs more difficult to carry out in the event of breakdown, Mr Lambert said.

Today a motorist with ignition trouble had simply to stop at a garage and after a few straightforward checks he could be on his way again. But with micro-chip technology the circuit board and sharp pair of eyes would be replaced by complex and expensive equipment.

Micro-processors were not repairable, but were "throw away" items. They were soldered to boards which integrated circuits, and failure of any one component would mean replacing the module, which was likely to be expensive. Unfortunately there were no signs of standardization among

car manufacturers and it seemed likely that manufacturers would "personalize" the vital connecting sockets, making it impossible for one franchise dealer to diagnose faults on cars of another make, Mr Lambert said.

That would tie the motorist to dealers specializing in his make of car, and little could be done at any other garage or at the roadside, apart from repairs to such items as hoses and drive belts.

If manufacturers did not standardize the main connecting sockets, garages could be faced with having to invest in separate diagnostic machines for several makes of car. For the small garage that would be impossible and the expense involved could lead to garage closures.

Mr Lambert said that unless a common form of diagnosis, applicable to all cars, was found, "we could see the beginnings of an ever-growing queue of immobile vehicles awaiting service at a diminishing number of garages."

The American garage trade was already experiencing some of the technology difficulties. Half the parts returned to manufacturers as defective had been replaced because of mistaken diagnosis, a result of design technology outstripping service know-how.

Right of police to make spot checks on drivers upheld

The right of uniformed policemen to stop drivers in random spot checks was upheld by Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, in the High Court yesterday.

Lord Widgery, presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said: "The general duty of a police officer extends to seeing whether a driver carries valid documents." The mere fact that an officer had no reason to think that a driver did not have valid documents did not take away his legal right to stop the vehicle.

The court allowed an appeal by the police from a decision of magistrates at Sittingbourne, Kent, on November 28, 1977, that Mr William Sidney Wood, a lorry driver, had no case to answer on a charge alleging that he failed to stop when requested to do so by an officer in uniform.

The magistrates acquitted Mr Wood, who was alleged to have slowed down and sworn

at the officer as he went past, on the ground that the officer had no legal right to stop Mr Wood because he had no reason to believe Mr Wood did not have valid documents or that the lorry was not fit to be on the road.

Mr Justice Wren, giving judgment, said the Road Traffic Act, 1972, gave a uniformed officer the power to stop a driver. There was nothing in the Act to suggest that the officer had to suspect an offence.

Because the magistrates had acquitted Mr Wood on a defence submission of no case to answer, the case would have to go back for them to continue the hearing.

He added: "One does not know what Mr Wood's defence will be, but if the facts proved or admitted that he was required to stop by an officer in uniform, not acting capriciously, and he failed to stop then, there is no answer to the charge."

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Soldiers in tank crash identified

Two soldiers killed in a crash between two tanks were identified yesterday, as a Ministry of Defence inquiry into the accident opened. They were Gunner Victor Lilley, aged 24, a married man of Pibright, Surrey, and Trooper Michael Allen, aged 27, of Dinsdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

The crash happened on Monday at the Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment at Longcross, near Chertsey, Surrey.

Rare stamps stolen

A collection of rare stamps, thought to be worth nearly £500,000, has been stolen from a retired teacher living in East Grinstead, West Sussex. The stamps are mostly British and Commonwealth issues.

Henry III coin found

A treasure trove inquest may be held at Torquay, Devon, on a Henry III silver penny found with a metal detector in a park by Mr Brian Read, a Freeman.

"When I use Lufthansa on my business trips the work starts after I've landed and not before."

"When I use Lufthansa for a holiday flight, the holiday starts on board."

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WEST EUROPE



Socialists eager to save détente: Socialist leaders at the opening of their international congress in Vienna yesterday. (Left to right) Dr Mario Soares (Portugal); Mr Shimon Peres (Israel); Mr Olof Palme (Sweden); Mr Bernt Carlsson (General Secretary); Herr Willy Brandt (West Germany); and Dr Bruno Kreisky (Austria).

Mr James Callaghan told the press after yesterday's session that the Socialist International had condemned "the monstrosity of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, so ruthlessly carried out" and demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops (Sue Masterman writes from Vienna).

Mr Callaghan said none of the delegations believed that détente was now at an end and a new cold war beginning. Détente, however, had taken a heavy blow. "A new arms race in Europe would be disastrous," he continued. "History has shown that arms races inevitably lead to war."

It was essential, Mr Callaghan said that areas of agreement or accommodation with the Soviet Union be found. "We must make sure we do not drift into the horrors of nuclear warfare by mistake or indifference," Mr Callaghan felt that the Socialist International should call for the immediate ratification of the United States of Salt 2, the treaty signed by President Carter and President Brezhnev last summer in Vienna. "It is in everyone's interest that it should be

Seveso factory chief killed by terrorists

From Peter Nichols Rome, Feb 5

Signor Paolo Paoletti, aged 39, an executive of the ICMESA factory at Meda, was killed by terrorists today. He was the eighth victim of terrorism this year.

The factory has been closed since July, 1976, when an explosion caused a cloud of dioxin poison to settle on the town of Seveso. Signor Paoletti was in charge of its security and maintenance.

He lived at Monza and the killers were waiting for him outside his home as he walked across a courtyard to get into his car. There were four of them, one a woman, and he apparently tried to escape because he was close to the front door when they shot him.

The grey Fiat used by the killers was found an hour later at the roadside on the outskirts of the town. The police set up roadblocks and used helicopters in their search.

The Icmesa factory at Meda belongs to Hoffmann-La Roche, the Swiss multinational organization, and in 1976, Signor Paoletti was director of production. After the explosion he and a Swiss superior were arrested but this was changed to house arrest because it was thought that the presence of the two men was necessary at the factory to help the investigators.

They were arrested again in August, 1976, on the grounds that they might tamper with evidence but were released after several months.

The poisonous cloud after the explosion polluted about 74,000 acres and a shadow still hangs over Seveso's future because the

full effects of what happened that summer's night nearly four years ago cannot yet, if ever, be estimated precisely.

A curious incident in Milan on January 15, may be a prelude to today's shooting. Four young people including a woman entered the premises of the Sago Company and bound and gagged the staff. They stayed for about 20 minutes and then left with a number of documents.

The next evening a bulletin was issued in the name of the terrorist group "Front Line" claiming responsibility.

The company's offices, adding that the company had carried out research on behalf of Icmesa "provoking the dioxin to crush the proletariat."

Reports today from the little town of Pavia, south of Rome, give a vivid idea of one of the strengths of the terrorist movements.

The local public prosecutor was murdered in November, 1978, by terrorists.

The vital evidence against two men arrested was provided by a schoolgirl identified as D.M. in court who appeared with her face half covered by a scarf as she testified.

She has since been kept under the constant watch of two special branch men and has not been able to go to school. She does not talk to her mother and apparently her mother does not report to the police that the family is living in complete segregation.

Telephone claim: An anonymous woman telephone caller to an Italian news agency later said the "Front-line" far-left terrorist group, was responsible for today's killings.—Reuter.

Poll shows Italians like previous popes more

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 5

A poll taken among Italians shows Pope John Paul II running behind Paul VI in popularity, with John XXIII still well ahead of both in terms of affection.

The present Pope's popularity is shown to be rising, but 64 per cent of those polled see him as conservative and authoritarian on doctrinal questions.

He is more popular with women than with men. He is respected most for his dynamism, then for his intelligent use of the media, followed by his handling his sensitivity to political and economic problems and his ability to speak clearly.

More than a half of the persons approached thought that his popularity had suffered as a result of the Hans Küng case, but a quarter thought that the episode had done him no harm while 10 per cent felt that it had done him good.

His doctrinal rigidity was confirmed once again yesterday when he spoke to judges of the Sacred Rota, the court dealing with cases of matrimonial annulments.

Marriage was one and indissoluble, he said. If a marriage was null and declared such, the two sides were not to be seen as a sense that there was never a tie. But if it was confirmed that the couple celebrated a marriage, they were pledged for life.

Today the Pope received Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, in private audience.

Nine revive interest in closer Turkish links

From Michael Horsaby Brussels, Feb 5

At their first formal meeting in nearly three years the EEC and Turkey agreed here today to put new life into their political and commercial relations "with a view to facilitating the accession of Turkey to the Community at a later date."

This move, coming after a long period of steady deterioration in relations with Turkey, was seen as part of the community's campaign to mend its fences with strategically important countries in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, described today's meeting as important and said he believed the Turks had been pleased by their reception. He did not think the Turks "would dream" of applying for full membership until they had put their economy in order. But they clearly set great store by their relations with the Nine.

The new right-wing Turkish Government of Mr Suleyman Demirel has been pressing for a firm commitment from the EEC on future Turkish membership of the Community, partly out of fear that Greece, which becomes a full member on January 1, 1981, might veto a Turkish application for entry.

The statement in today's communiqué appears to go somewhat beyond the terms of Turkey's 1963 association agreement, which merely holds out the possibility of membership when the Turkish economy has developed sufficiently to permit it.

Resentment has been building up for some time in Turkey over the way that the commercial and other privileges it enjoys under the association agreement have been eroded by the preferential trading terms granted by the EEC to other developing countries in the Mediterranean region.

Mr Hayrettin Erkin, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told his EEC counterparts today that the desire of Turkey to take its place in the Community is

in accordance not only with its own economic interests but also with those of the Community.

Recent developments in the world and the Middle East—apparently a reference to events in Afghanistan and Iran—had demonstrated the strategic importance of Turkey to the West, Mr Erkin declared.

He served a warning that relations between Turkey and the EEC, which under the association agreement were intended eventually to lead to full membership, could never run smoothly if Turkey was treated as just another country with which the EEC had preferential trading links.

EEC foreign ministers agreed with Mr Erkin on "the political need for a fresh approach" and promised to "do everything to ensure that the constructive dialogue at this meeting is quickly translated into practical decisions" to alleviate present problems.

Among the main Turkish concerns listed by Mr Erkin are more financial aid, better access for Turkish industrial and agricultural exports to the Community and progress towards free movement for Turkish migrant workers in the EEC. Turkey has a huge trade deficit of 50 per cent inflation and 20 per cent unemployment.

Mr Erkin also reiterated Turkish fears that Greece might use its membership of the EEC to win a more sympathetic hearing from the Community for its side of the case in bilateral disputes with Turkey over Cyprus and territorial rights in the Aegean Sea.

The foreign ministers of the Nine gave an assurance that the further enlargement of the Community "would not affect relations with Turkey" or change the rights guaranteed to Turkey under the association agreement.

The ministers also heard a report from Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for External Relations, on progress in the negotiations with Yugoslavia for a new five-year trade agreement.

Gunman kills victim and holds seven hostage

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 5

Many police tonight surrounded the offices in Milan of the Puritas Italia company where a self-styled terrorist shot a man and held five women and two men hostage.

The man telephoned the ANSA news agency and announced the killing, adding that he was a member of the "Communist Fighting Units" movement.

He allowed an agency reporter to speak to the hostages. One of the women confirmed that a colleague, Signor Gianni Ferrari, had been shot. The hostages said the gunman was alone and asked that their families be informed of what had happened to them.

The man's demands began with the arrest of certain people belonging to the strategic direction of the red brigades, Italy's leading left-wing terrorist movement.

He wanted two statements broadcast and published by the press.

French withdraw diplomats from embassy in Libya

From Ian Murray Paris, Feb 5

France has decided to recall its ambassador and diplomatic staff from Libya after the burning of the embassy building in Tripoli and the sack of the French consulate in Benghazi yesterday.

At the same time Libya has been asked to withdraw a similar number of its officials from its embassy in Paris. A French statement said these moves were decided "following the inadmissible behaviour of the Libyan authorities."

The Libyan Embassy in Paris, like all Libyan embassies, is administered by a "popular collective".

According to M Charles Malo, the French Ambassador, the Libyans ignored his appeal for help to protect his embassy before the crowd chanting "Popular revolution" burst in. It now appears that the consular staff in Benghazi were warned by the authorities of an approaching angry crowd but got no help protecting them or the building.

In the event, no French national seems to have been injured and the special crisis unit set up at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris has reported that the crowd chanting "Popular revolution" burst in. It now appears that the consular staff in Benghazi were warned by the authorities of an approaching angry crowd but got no help protecting them or the building.

These frictions were exacerbated last week when France sent two transport aircraft and two unarmed Puma helicopters to Tunisia to help carry Tunisian army units to Gafsa, where insurgents were trying to take over. M Yvon Bourges, the French Defence Minister, said last night that the presence in Tunisian waters at the moment of three French warships and five submarines was part of "a normal manoeuvre".

Menten war crimes case to be reopened by Dutch

From Our Correspondent Amsterdam, Feb 5

The Supreme Court of The Netherlands today ordered a court in Rotterdam to resume proceedings against Mr Pieter Menten, the Dutch millionaire and art collector, accused of wartime mass executions of Polish Jews.

On September 27 last year, the court in Rotterdam had suspended proceedings against Mr Menten, aged 80, because it considered him mentally too ill to defend himself. According to three experts who testified, Mr Menten suffers from advanced arteriosclerosis of the brain.

But the Supreme Court has ruled that the court in Rotterdam had insufficient grounds to suspend proceedings and in particular that it interpreted the concept of insanity too broadly.

It is the third time that the Supreme Court has ruled in the Menten case. On May 29th, 1978, it quashed the 15-year

sentence imposed on Mr Menten in 1977 by a court in Amsterdam and ordered a retrial in The Hague.

The court in The Hague subsequently ordered the release of Mr Menten because, according to the judges, he had been given immunity from prosecution in the early fifties by the Minister of Justice. This ruling was also quashed by the Supreme Court which then ordered a second retrial, this time in Rotterdam.

Since the Rotterdam court's decision to suspend proceedings, Mr Menten has been living under virtual house arrest in the coach house of his villa in Blaricum, a picturesque village about 15 miles to the south-east of Amsterdam.

The public prosecutor in Rotterdam said today that he would reopen the case against Mr Menten as soon as possible, but this might take several months because a number of witnesses have to be called from abroad.

Life sentence on soldier who killed comrade

Bielefeld, West Germany, Feb 5

A British military court today sentenced a young soldier from the Royal Hampshire Regiment to life imprisonment for murdering a fellow soldier and attempting to murder another in Bulfer Barracks, Munster, last September.

Private Michael Jeffries, aged 19, from Liss Forest, near Peterfield, Hampshire, was said to have entered a room where two soldiers were in their beds and beaten them about their heads with a pickaxe handle.

The dead man was Private William Robins, aged 21, a married man from Worcester. His roommate, Private Guy Gibson, aged 22, from Lymington, Hampshire, received severe injuries.

Private Jeffries pleaded guilty to the charges and no witnesses were called. It was said that he had been unable to give any reason for the attack and there appeared to be no motive.

Psychiatric evidence did not indicate diminished responsibility and Private Jeffries, who gave no evidence during the two-hour hearing appeared to accept the verdict without emotion.—Reuter.

Dutch left drop discussion on ending monarchy

From Robert Schull Amsterdam, Feb 5

Attempts within the two main left-wing parties in the Netherlands, the Socialists and the Democrats '66, to rekindle the discussion, dormant since the 1960s, on whether the monarchy should be abolished in favour of a republic have been quashed.

At a meeting of the Labour Party's national council at the weekend, representatives of the Young Socialists tried to introduce a motion calling for the end of the monarchy when Queen Juliana abdicates on April 30. But the council refused to discuss the matter.

The Labour manifesto officially favours a republic but does not mention when the Netherlands should start contemplating such a form of government. As one leading Socialist once put it: "If Holland were a republic Queen Juliana would be elected president."

Similarly the executive council of the Democrats '66, the small but influential Left-wing Liberal Party, issued a statement deploring the fact that some members of the party had called for a discussion on whether a monarchy or a republic is the most preferable form of government now that Queen Juliana has announced that she intends to step down.

Meanwhile, a number of interesting details have emerged surrounding the Queen's decision to abdicate and why it was so unexpected. It is said that she wanted to underline the fact that the decision to abdicate was still the sole prerogative of the monarch.

At the same time, by abdicating on her 71st birthday she has avoided setting a precedent which would make 70 a mandatory royal retirement age. It had generally been assumed that the Queen would step down last year.

Constitutional experts are divided as to whether the act of abdication, which the Queen will sign on the morning of April 30 a few hours before her daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix, is installed as the new Queen needs the counter signature of a minister. Relations between the Crown and the Cabinet are based on the stipulation in the constitution that "the King can do no wrong, the ministers are responsible".

Another point of constitutional law being discussed is whether the Cabinet must tender its resignation to the new Queen, as it is the monarch who appoints and dismisses ministers.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister, will announce further details of the abdication and the succession this week, after discussions with the Queen and the Crown Princess. In particular he is expected to say whether the

Crown Princess intends to rule as Queen Beatrix or as Queen Wilhelmina II.

Wilhelmina is one of the other names Princess Beatrix was given at her christening. She was named after her grandmother Queen Wilhelmina, who gave powerful guidance to the Dutch Government in exile in London during the Second World War and who abdicated in 1943 in favour of her daughter, Juliana, after a 50-year reign.

Although the male line of the House of Orange died with King William III in 1893, Holland is to have a Prince of Orange for the first time in nearly a century. The future Queen's elder son, Prince Willem Alexander, will assume the title when his mother assumes the crown. The last prince to hold the title was the eldest son of King William III, Prince Alexander, who died in 1884.

There is considerable anxiety about the events in Afghanistan among ordinary Russians, now especially as widespread rumours speak of large numbers of Soviet troops being killed there.

The Soviet Union has never published a figure of how many troops it has sent to Afghanistan, or how many casualties it has suffered—estimated by the Americans at 2,500 killed or wounded.

But many Russians have heard Western estimates and reports on foreign radio broadcasts to this country. They have bemoaned speakers at political meetings who have made the political lectures with questions demanding precise figures.

In a clear attempt to reassure the Soviet public, Mr Boris Ponomarev, a candidate member of the ruling Politburo, said yesterday there had been no clashes between Soviet troops and Afghan rebels. He specifically said that "all sorts of voices have been rumoured".

Mr Ponomarev, aged 75, and in charge of a party foreign

OVERSEAS Franco-German summit ends with identity of views, a tank deal and a sharp warning to Russia

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Feb 5

The Franco-German summit meeting just ended between President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has produced a complete identity of view on the Afghan crisis, and a sharp warning to Russia to withdraw her troops if détente between East and West is not to be permanently affected.

While emphasising the loyalty of the two governments to the Atlantic alliance, the final declaration issued today asserts the "particular responsibilities" of European countries for peace and security and the determination of the two governments to assert them.

This amounts to the "original European approach" on which the French President sets great store and which he recently defined in India as the refusal to choose between "acceptance of the four corners" of Soviet intervention and "the revival of the cold war".

To paraphrase Lord Carrington's phrase, Paris and Bonn are more than in harmony; they are in unison. And London, which has its lot completely with the United States, is rather left out in the cold.

Beyond this the thirty-five Franco-German meeting since 1963 has led to the agreement by both governments to produce, in common, a new common declaration, which is one of the most important technical cooperation projects to date between the two countries.

They will also embark on the joint construction of a communications satellite for which the documents will be signed by the end of next month.

The joint declaration states bluntly that détente would not survive another blow of the same nature as Afghanistan. If it were to occur, France and West Germany in agreement would take appropriate steps to guarantee their security and defend international stability.

They consider that the genuinely non-aligned countries have a part to play in world peace and stability and should be dragged into an East-West confrontation.

French and German efforts

to overcome the present crisis make sense only if Russia demonstrates its will to respond to them. A withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is necessary to the success of discussions at present under way on security and peace—an allusion to the Salt 2 agreements and the Madrid conference on security and cooperation in Europe next autumn.

President Giscard d'Estaing told a press conference at the close of this morning's talks that "peace and security were two complementary objectives we intend to pursue". It was significant, in the present state of world tension, that France and West Germany had been able to express identical views.

Both countries wish to explore the way of reducing international tension," he added, "but in return, we expect concrete gestures, and especially that the Soviet Union should stick to its declared intention of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan."

The President also insisted on the determination of both governments to achieve progress in the organization of the European Community and to seek solutions to the problems facing it within the framework of existing institutions and rules—a clear warning to Britain.

He was even more explicit in his toast during the state dinner at the Elysée Palace for Herr Schmidt last night. "It would be disappointing, even indecent, if the present differences should arise within the community."

Both he and the German Chancellor agree that Britain's budget demands should be met with a firmness which does not include compromise but not at the expense of "Community achievements". Herr Schmidt, in particular, considers that Britain is not as poor as it makes out and that the latest rise in oil prices will enable her to balance its payments this year.

Herr Schmidt, on his side, emphasized that this was anything but a routine summit. He had belatedly ten hours of private talks with the President and at last night's banquet, the countries' foreign policies were coordinated to a degree which was rare between sovereign states.

The present crisis had demonstrated tangibly all that had been done concretely between the two countries: Bonn and Paris had "quite naturally turned to each other".

This morning, he emphasized that France and the Federal Republic were working out the elements of a common action of the West in the face of the crisis. These elements would be submitted this afternoon by both Foreign Ministers to their European partners in Brussels.

"We shall also speak to our American allies," he added.

But he insisted that France and the Federal Republic did not intend to play the part of honest brokers between the two superpowers.

If one looked for a flaw in the perfect union between Paris and Bonn, it would lie in the German insistence that the "original approach" of Europe to world problems and détente should not develop into a third way—half way between the American and the Russian.

Strous criticism: The declaration by the French and West German leaders that détente could not sustain another blow similar to the invasion of Afghanistan "borders on foolishness" according to Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the opposition candidate for the Chancellorship (Patricia Clough writes from Bonn).

Similar declarations had been made after the Soviet intervention in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, he said. Moscow "counts on getting declarations of this kind from Western Europe rather than political reaction after every new aggression."

In a statement from his headquarters in Munich, Herr Strauss said the agreement between Herr Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing that Western Europe had "special responsibilities" in the present situation, should not mean a role as mediators between the United States and Soviet Union.

The United States would not want this. On the contrary, the West Europeans should be asked to take on specific tasks in a joint strategy with the United States so as to relieve it of part of its burden.

Soviet war figures demanded

Continued from page 1

The paper assured its readers that real conditions for rebuilding aggression had now emerged. "The revolution still remains in danger. Its enemies are not going to lay down their arms."

The message that the Russians are in for a prolonged struggle was reinforced in a Tass despatch from Kabul today, which said hand-to-hand fighting was "cruelly slaying peaceful people", and had burnt down several schools and blown up bridges and roads in Nangarhar province.

Afghan army units had started liquidating these gangs, and recently a well-armed gang operating in Badakhshan, Tass said the rebels had intensified their operations as the visit of Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski to Pakistan. Quoting an Interior Ministry official, it said a rebel leader in Pakistan had called on other groups to show what they were capable of on the eve of the visit by President Carter's envoy.

These Soviet reports of insurgent activities come immediately after a report, hotly denied by the Russians, that Soviet-led Afghan soldiers had massacred an estimated 1,170 unarmed men and boys last April.

The report, published by The Christian Monitor yesterday, said almost all the male population of the town of Kerala in eastern Afghanistan was killed for helping the rebels.

Today Tass called the report "monstrous misinformation" and said the dirty slander was part of a malicious propaganda campaign launched by Washington and its allies around the events in Afghanistan. Imperialism had invented the "vile fabrication" for its own definite purposes.

Tass said imperialism was guilty of such crimes as Auschwitz, Buchenwald and the gas chambers recently at Song My massacre in Vietnam. The Soviet people who had made innumerable sacrifices in the Second World War knew the price of human life.

There is considerable anxiety about the events in Afghanistan among ordinary Russians, now especially as widespread rumours speak of large numbers of Soviet troops being killed there.

Soviet invasion has been most unifying event since Koran Hate unites Afghans

From Ian Murray Paris

The farther away from Kabul one gets, the worse the Afghan conflict appears.

Viewed from Paris, the combination of tanks, snow, fierce tribesmen and the crushing boot of Soviet imperialism look positively terrifying.

But in the back streets of Jalalabad there is an air of business as usual.

It is true that scarcely a day or night goes by without the sound of artillery or small arms fire crackling out above the buzz of the bazaar. It is true that at night the chances are there will be no lights because the local transformer has been blown up again. It is true that helicopters gunships frequently pass overhead, with rockets loaded for firing hanging underneath.

But all that has been going on for a year or more and people scarcely bother to look up any longer to see the helicopters. They have learned to live throughout the country the one change since the Soviet Army arrived on December 27 is that there is less fighting.

Certainly an end has come to the napalm bomb attacks on the mountain villages which started the flood of refugees over the border into Pakistan last October.

The Afghans en masse hate the Russians more deeply, it would seem, than anything or anyone else. The arrival of the Soviet Army has been the most unifying event in Afghanistan since the arrival of the Koran.

Up to now it has only been Islam and the nineteenth century British cartographers which have held Afghanistan together. Afghanistan is really a British invention, deliberately created as a buffer state between the Indian Empire and the Russian bear.

Within its frontiers the tribesmen have consistently shown themselves more loyal to their tribal chiefs than to their king or government and more loyal to themselves individually than to their tribal chiefs.

They have turned their hand indiscriminately to: hunting; farming; banditry and smuggling. Their superb knowledge of the terrain enabled them to

bloody the nose of the British Army in the days when the British Army bestrode the world.

For the moment it is possible to argue that the Russian Army is faring no better than the British, despite its MiG fighters, its helicopter gunships and modern artillery. Outside the cities the tribal chiefs still rule.

It would be wrong to think of these tribal leaders as rulers of patriotic freedom fighters pledged unto death to rid their country of the Soviet scourge. The harrowing experience of three Soviet lorry drivers, captured by tribesmen near Jalalabad, shows how these Mujahideen warriors really behave.

The drivers had all their valuables stolen from them, and one of them, who refused to do what he was told was shot down and killed in cold blood. During the day the freedom fighters bid and in the evenings they went out looking for safe targets.

There were many rival gangs and even the surviving Germans were released they needed an armed guard to protect them from other bandits as they were escorted back to Jalalabad.

The one unifying thing is the universal dislike of the Russians. This gives the whole of the Afghan people a common target to aim at and stops them fighting among themselves.

Mentally they are well equipped to win. They have the Russians fanatically as non-believers and the are certain that killing a Russian soldier will earn them a place in heaven.

How well equipped physically the Afghans are to take on the Russians is more questionable. On a trip across the border with the proud killer of 400 soldiers, four British journalists found that this "Lion of the Mountains" was quite unable to keep up with them, despite the fact they normally go up nothing steeper than Ludgate Hill.

The Saur revolution of two years ago brought with it cruel and repressive measures and it is more than likely that tens of thousands of people died from torture and execution.

Kenya President receives Muhammad Ali

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 5

Muhammad Ali, the former boxing champion, who was asked by President Carter to seek the support of African states for an Olympic boycott, was received by President Daniel Moi of Kenya today.

Later the two posed for photographers at State House here. Mr Ali said he came to Kenya to express his pleasure at being in Kenya.

After meeting Mr Robert Matano, Minister of Social Services, Mr Ali said "I support President Carter 100 per cent. Tomorrow he leaves for Nigeria, the next stop on his tour."

Kabul amnesty to mark birthday of the Prophet

Moscow, Feb 5.—Mr Babrak Karmal, Afghanistan's Soviet-backed President, has proclaimed an amnesty for 448 people, jailed on criminal charges, to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, Tass reported from Kabul today.

The move appeared to be part of the Marxist leader's attempt to win the confidence of the country's predominantly Muslim population.

According to Tass, celebrations of the birthday, which also included a rally attended by Government leaders at the theological department of Kabul University, were given wide coverage in the officially-controlled press.

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OVERSEAS



Joan Baez, the American folk singer, cuddling a Kampuchean child at the Sa Kaeo refugee camp in Thailand before joining a march for the survival of Kampuchea.

China rejects Hanoi's offer of lunar new year truce on border

Peking, Feb 5.—China today rejected Vietnam's proposal for a lunar new year truce on their frontier, calling it a "trick" aimed at distracting world attention from the renewed Vietnamese offensive against the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea.

Mr Han Nianlong, the head of the Chinese delegation, turned down the truce proposal in a letter to Mr Dinh Nho Liem, his Vietnamese counterpart, the New China news agency reported today.

The Chinese reply coincided with the departure for Bangkok of Mrs Deng Yingchao, Chou En-lai's widow, at the head of a delegation from the Chinese National People's Congress on a friendship visit to Thailand.

Peking today said Vietnamese troops had embarked on pre-meditated military action against the Khmer Rouge at a time when world attention was focused on events in Afghanistan and expressed fear that the fighting in Kampuchea would spill over into Thailand.

Mr Han, who is China's Deputy Foreign Minister, categorically rejected allegations made by Hanoi that Peking was responsible for tension on the Sino-Vietnamese border. He said there had been over 200 Vietnamese provocations against China since the beginning of the year.

Kampuchea march: A hundred Western celebrities left Bangkok today for the border in a symbolic "march for Kampuchea's survival". The group includes Joan Baez, the American singer, Liv Ullmann, the Norwegian actress, and Alexander Ginsburg, the Soviet dissident.

At a Bangkok press conference, held on the eve of the march, Mr James Grant, the new director of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), who has just returned from Kampuchea, said that the first phase of the international aid programme, which began in October last year, had been successful.

He said that those taking part in the march were ill-informed because, according to Unicef, the Phnom Penh authorities distribute 25,000 to 28,000 tons of food to the population every month.

In view of this improvement in the food situation and the politically and diplomatically delicate aid operations being discreetly carried out along the Thai-Kampuchean border with Hanoi's tacit approval, several aid officials and Western diplomats in Bangkok felt that the "march for survival" had come at an inopportune time.

Agence France-Presse.

Arms level of super powers criticized by Chinese

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Feb 5

In taking its seat in the United Nations Committee on Disarmament for the first time China today accused the Soviet Union of having extended "the practice of military aggression and occupation" to the Third World and Islamic countries.

In spite of Soviet protests that his remarks were out of order, the Chinese delegate, Mr Zhang Wenjin, a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, referred to "that superpower" and said "hegemonist activities" had escalated and routine slogans of "détente" and "non-use of force" are merely fraudulent rhetoric.

He went on to criticize both the United States and the Soviet Union, saying that because of their military "strengths, far surpassing that of any other country, they were 'the source of the main threat to world peace'."

To prevent a world war, they had to lead the way in drastically reducing armaments. Once this had been done, other nations could join them.

China also believed conventional disarmament should be carried out simultaneously.

Mr Viktor Issraelyan, the Soviet delegate on the 40-nation committee, said the Chinese views gave no grounds for optimism, being "largely obstructionist and anti-Soviet."

Western delegates referred to the tension resulting from the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan. Mr Ola Ullsten, the Swedish Foreign Minister, said the Soviet move had eroded "the basis for peaceful co-operation with the other super power."

With counter-measures being considered, "there is a risk this leads to a process of action-reaction which in the end becomes uncontrollable."

Woman and boy die as crowded junk capsizes

Hongkong, Feb 5.—A woman and a boy drowned today when a junk carrying more than 100 Chinese illegal immigrants capsized outside Hongkong harbour. Rescuers saved 112 men, women and children and the search for other survivors continued tonight.

A police launch using searchlights spotted the 150ft junk full of people just before dawn. Many of the women carried children strapped to their backs.

A policeman on the launch said the sea was rough and there were difficulties in getting alongside the junk. A tow line was passed and after 10 minutes of towing the junk was seen to be taking in water.

—Agence France-Presse.

Tito health improving

Belgrade, Feb 5.—President Tito's health is improving after the amputation of his left leg and he is carrying out some of his regular duties, his doctors said today. He is convalescing at a Ljubljana hospital.

Warders search for more victims of US jail riot

Santa Fe, Feb 5.—Warders today searched the debris of a burnt-out gymnasium at New Mexico State Prison for bodies already been found in the cell blocks and he feared the death toll could rise to 50.

Prisoners who survived the bloodbath told officials a murder squad armed with knives, clubs and shovels rampaged through the jail last Saturday night, slashing and murdering other prisoners to settle old scores.

"Some of the victims are unrecognizable," a warder said. "They no longer have faces."

A prison official said that one of the murdered prisoners had apparently been slashed with a knife and then thrown from a balcony, while another had his head almost severed by a shovel. At least seven prisoners died from overdoses of drugs.

Captured white fin dolphin surviving in Chinese pool

By Tony Samstag

A dolphin of a species so rare that a United Nations study of aquatic mammals published two years ago was unable even to estimate its numbers has been captured for the first time, according to New China news agency.

The white fin dolphin is indigenous to the Yangtze river and a few of its tributaries. Also known as the white flag dolphin, it is one of four rare species of freshwater dolphin: the others are found in the Ganges, the Indus, the Orinoco and Amazon river basins.

The dolphin caught by the Chinese earlier this year weighs 132lb and is just under five feet long. In a report from Wuhan, the news agency said the animal was being kept alive at the Institute of Aquatic Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In its 1978 report, *Mammals in the Seas*, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said "Recent visitors to China were told that the dolphin is very rare, but appears to be recovering under strict protection."

The report recommended that the FAO "encourage protection of this species" and added: "A report is needed from Chinese scientists on its present status, including information on distribution, abundance and ecological relations."

Mutiny charge conscripts jailed in S. Africa

From Our Correspondent Cape Town, Feb 5

Eight South African national servicemen have been sentenced to terms of between 10 and 15 months' detention for mutiny. They were found guilty at a court martial at Bloemfontein of conspiring to leave the School of Armour there.

Last year more than 100 conscripts went absent without leave from an infantry barracks at Upington in the northern Cape Province. They complained that they were bullied by NCOs and had been refused leave before being sent back to Namibia (South-West Africa) to patrol the Angolan border. They were given suspended sentences.

The state President, Mr Marais Viljoen, said in his address to Parliament last week that subversive elements were increasing efforts to undermine the morale of national servicemen.

Royal opening for Hongkong's new railway

Hongkong, Feb 5.—Princess Alexandra arrived in Hongkong from London to open officially the new Mass Transit Railway. The opening marks the railway's first link with the Kowloon peninsula and Hongkong island by a mile-long tunnel under the harbour. Officials estimate 1,800,000 passengers a day will use the 2.3-station railway.

Princess Alexandra's other activities during her nine-day visit include inauguration of the main pumping station of Hongkong's High Island water project and visits to a Red Cross mobile blood centre and a hospital for handicapped children.

—AP.

Social Focus

The case for change

The central argument of the supporters of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill is that life begins at the moment of conception and that abortion is killing an identifiable human being.

That is the view of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), which has almost 30,000 members. Life organization, which has 18,000 members, and the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, who are taking a more active part in campaigning for this Bill than they did in opposing the 1967 Abortion Act.

The Bill, sponsored by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire North and Bute, reduces the upper time limit for abortion from 28 weeks of pregnancy to 20 weeks, changes the criteria so it is harder to obtain and seeks to break the financial link between abortion counselling services run by charities and abortion clinics.

The declared aim of SPUC, which has non-religious members as well as religious ones, is to reassert the principle laid down in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 20, 1959, that children need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth.

It states that the number of abortions has rocketed since the introduction of the 1967 Abortion Act. About 50,000 to 60,000 abortions are performed annually on residents in England and Wales in 1969 to 112,000 in 1978 and that the ratio of abortions to live births has also greatly increased from one to nine for girls under 20 in 1969 to one to two at present.

It feels that the Act has resulted in abortion on demand being practised in the private sector and in some sectors of the National Health Service. It cites in support of its claim the evidence given in March, 1976, to the second Select Committee on Abortion by Sir John Peel, a former President of the British Medical Association, who said that if abortion on demand was to be

stopped, some modification in the law was essential.

The society says that the predictions it made, before the 1967 Act, have all come true. It said the law would be a licence to print money for the "shady end" of the medical profession, that doctors would be under pressure to do abortions and women under pressure to have them and that abortion would be used to sweep social problems under the mat.

The Life organization insists that the Corrie Bill will not result in an increase in illegal abortions because it will still allow abortions for women in real need. Moreover, the caring work which Life's 200 local groups now carry out will provide the necessary support so women will not be forced to choose abortion.

The Roman Catholic Church's opposition to abortion was stated forcibly in a statement issued last month on behalf of all the Roman Catholic diocesan bishops of England, Wales and Scotland.

In Roman Catholic moral theory, it is always wrong to take innocent life. The bishops said, in their statement, that the vast majority of abortions carried out in Great Britain "represented a massive and growing trivialization of human life, an increasing acceptance of the practice of killing on demand."

Opinion within the other churches is divided. A group called Christians for Free Choice, which includes many non-conformists, takes the view that it should be up to a woman's individual conscience while the executive committee of the Church of England's General Synod Board for Social Responsibility, however, said, in a statement last week, that abortion was always an evil to be avoided if possible, and could only be justified when a woman's life or health was seriously threatened.

Both sides of the abortion argument

Why the law should stay

Three main arguments are put forward by the opponents of the Bill. First they claim that the Bill will lead to a return to back street abortions and an increase in maternal deaths from septicemia.

That point has been made particularly strongly by members of the medical profession. A letter to *The Lancet* signed by 70 leading doctors, surgeons and professors of obstetrics and gynaecology last week pointed out that only due to illegal abortions in 1973-75 compared to 98 out of 579 in the years 1964-66.

The medical and surgical Royal Colleges have all come out against the main provisions of the Bill, although some have been in favour of lowering the upper time limit of abortion from 28 to 24 weeks.

Second, the Bill's opponents say that the Bill will turn the clock back to the days before 1967 when middle-class women were able to obtain abortions for medical-social reasons in private clinics but that the facility was not available to the poor.

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife Central, one of the MPs who opposed the Bill in its committee stage, condemned it as a "class measure" for that reason saying it would affect the factory girl and the typist but not the Duchess.

Third, they take the view that no woman should be forced to have a baby that she does not want and that the rights of the mother are greater than those of the foetus.

They insist that they are not in favour of abortion, but in favour of allowing the woman a choice. Christians for Free Choice, in particular, hold the opinion that it is between a woman and her conscience.

The group's spokesmen include Lord Soper and the Rev Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, sent a letter to all MPs last week saying: "We believe abortion to be essentially a matter for individual conscience and though Christians may condemn abortion for themselves, it is morally wrong to create

laws making it harder for others to obtain it. This is confusing 'morality' with 'legality'."

The campaign against the Corrie Bill has been led by the Co-ordinating Committee in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act, which was set up in 1976 with 16 founder members. It now has more than 50 member organizations, including the main abortion charities, the National Law Reform Association, the National Abortion Campaign, Christians for Free Choice, Tories for Free Choice and Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion.

Mrs Madeleine Simms, chairman of the committee said that the Abortion Act had resulted in a reduction of maternal deaths from abortion and an increase in the proportion of abortions carried out early in pregnancy.

Most of the opponents of the Bill would prefer to see more use made of contraception so that unwanted pregnancies were fewer, but it was the Roman Catholic Church, which supported the Bill, which was ambiguous over the use of contraceptives.

The committee did not have a collective view as to when a foetus became a human life but it stood by the 1967 Act. That did not lay down when abortion would be considered infanticide but referred to the provisions of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act, 1929. The latter made it illegal to destroy the life of a child capable of being born alive and laid down that if the mother had been pregnant for 28 weeks, there was *prima facie* evidence that the child was viable.

Mrs Simms said that the supporters of the Corrie Bill insisted that their chief concern was the sanctity of life and yet the Conservative Seat Belt Bill, one measure which would save hundreds of lives this year was being cynically impeded in its committee stage by supporters of the Corrie Bill who did not want to see it come into committee and compete for parliamentary time with the Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

The debate on the Bill is to take place on Friday.

Annabel Ferriman

Free choice of schools will be costly

If the Government's assisted places scheme has provoked more indignation than it deserves, the proposed assisted places Bill, which allows local authorities to charge what they like for school transport, has probably lost it most votes. It is the Conservative counties which are most seriously affected.

The flare-up in the respectable solidly Tory county of Kent is the most recent manifestation of the anger and genuine bewilderment felt by parents faced with school charges of up to £3.50 a week a child. Increases in school meal charges they can accept: a child can always take sandwiches. But how is he to get to a school many miles from his home if he does not take the school bus and if his parents do not have a car.

It is true that most families living in the country own a car, but that is usually used by the father to get to his work. Also in many families, both mother and father are working and would find it impossible to pick the child up from school in the middle of the afternoon.

Charging for school transport makes a mockery of the Government's assisted places scheme, which allows parents to give their child a free choice of school for their child. You can choose the school all right but what if you cannot afford to pay the fare?

It will also make it far more difficult for local authorities who are trying to close village schools where rolls are falling or where "rationalization" of primary school provision is needed to allow additional budget savings to be made. In the past, hostile parents have been able to be smothered with the promise of free transport to the next nearest school.

And what of the metropolitan area which has carefully worked out a jigsaw puzzle of catchment areas so as to ensure a balanced social and ability intake into its comprehensive schools? The child living next to a secondary school, but just the other side of the

catchment area dividing line, is at present bused free to a more distant school.

Will parents continue to comply with such a system when faced not only with inconvenience but also a new cost? Will they not make use of another provision in the Education Bill—namely, the new appeals procedure (with all the additional public expense and administrative havoc that will involve) to try to go to their nearest school?

The level of truancy, particularly where it is condoned by parents, might well rise in areas where school transport charges are made.

The Roman Catholic Church, which sets so much store by educating its own children, is particularly worried about the effect of the charges on its schools. Although there is at present no statutory obligation on local authorities to provide free transport to children who choose not to go to the nearest county school, in practice most authorities have done so for Catholic children attending Catholic schools.

Non-Catholic and other children attending denominational schools will be faced with the same charges as children attending maintained county schools. The Catholics, with their far-flung schools, should be pleased to note that so far all authorities are planning to charge a flat-rate fare, and not one related to distance.

But Catholics nevertheless stand to suffer disproportionately both because of the high proportion of children living beyond walking distance from the school (more than 80 per cent of pupils at schools like St Anselm's in Canterbury and St Bede's in Lancaster now use free transport), and because Catholics tend to have larger families.

Great pressure was put on the Government to introduce an amendment stipulating that no more than two children in any one family would be charged for school transport. But although this could still be introduced in the report

stage of the Bill, due to begin next Tuesday, it is considered unlikely.

Several authorities have already decided not to charge more than two children per family: Salop, Hampshire, Staffordshire, Cumbria, Cheshire, and East Sussex. But no limit on numbers is so far being planned by Kent, Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Powys, or Inner London.

The Government is likely to give way during the report stage to another plea to compel authorities to charge a flat-rate for school transport without discriminating on grounds of distance or denomination.

That would make illegal the present arrangements in Cornwall under which pupils at Catholic schools are charged for transport while those attending non-denominational county schools and living beyond the statutory walking distance (two miles for those under eight, and three miles for those eight and over) go free.

It would also make illegal schemes such as that originally proposed by Mid-Glamorgan, under which pupils attending denominational or Welsh-language schools were to be charged almost double the fare charged to pupils attending other maintained schools. Mid-Glamorgan has since decided to abandon the whole idea of charging at all.

However, it would not prevent counties like Oxfordshire from going ahead with its plan to cease to provide transport for all non-entrants to denominational schools from September, 1981.

Faced with the innumerable difficulties involved in levying new charges, many authorities have decided to continue to make no charge at all for pupils living beyond walking distance. That applies to Mid-Glamorgan, Devon, Dorset, Avon, Cornwall, Lincolnshire, Northumberland (though it plans to introduce a flat rate fare in September, 1981), Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sheffield and Manchester.

However, they will have to find the required savings in other parts of their education system, or increase the rates. Some authorities, like Manchester and Dorset, may well change their minds about not charging if inflation and wage settlements look as if they will rise above the 13 per cent allowed for by the Government in its rate support grant.

Most authorities are proposing to charge around £1 to £1.50 a week per child: Staffordshire (£1.25), Cumbria (£1), Buckinghamshire (£1.50), Cheshire (£1), LEA (£60p). Some are charging a lower rate, or nothing at all for primary pupils: Salop (£50p primary, £1 secondary), Hampshire (nothing primary, £1.50 secondary), Essex (£1 primary, £1.50 secondary), East Sussex (nothing primary, £1.75 secondary), Gloucestershire (nothing primary, £1.5 a term secondary).

By law, all authorities will be required to allow children from families on Family Income Supplement or Supplementary Benefit to travel free. This led Mr Michael Foot (Labour MP for Ebbw Vale) to describe the Education Bill, not inaccurately, as the "Poverty Trap Extension Bill".

A few authorities like Salop and Staffordshire are planning rather more than those on FIS or SB to travel free in an attempt to avoid widening the gap between the poorest and those just above the poverty line.

The Government hopes that authorities will be able to make savings in the next financial year of £20m on the total school transport bill of £125m. It believes that it is far better to make savings in areas like school transport and school meals than to have to cut provision in the classroom. Many parents believe there is a third alternative: an increase in income tax or the rates.

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Children's Books

A love of books that can be taught

In this column last month I set out some evidence for a peculiar apathy towards the teaching profession towards books. The article made some scattered cries of incredulity. After all, who, if not teachers, are the custodians of literacy? But when I pointed out that it was the intensity of their response to books that was at issue, and not parroting about the value of reading, I found myself accused of an "elitist" regard for the printed word. Milton? "A potency of life" in books? Not only elitist, forsooth, but mystical as well.

I am inclined to think that Cushta Yeoman is all that we need by way of an answer to the lack of engagement or the dim utilitarianism implied by those charges. She is an eight-year-old whose home is near Auckland, New Zealand and an account of her woe-begone early life was published last year by her grandmother, Dorothy Butler: *Cushta and her Books* (Hodder and Stoughton £3.95).

After Cushta was born on December 18, 1971, it soon became clear that she was not to enjoy a normal babyhood. From an attack of jaundice at birth through a whole series of worrying ailments during her first four months of life, it came to be deduced that she might be suffering from some kind of brain disease. There were a variety of physical disorders—asthma, eczema, a small hole in the heart, a blocked kidney—and to these were added even more problematic difficulties relating to extreme weakness and lack of control in her arms and to a lack of coordination of sight and physical movement.

One advantage that Cushta did have, however, was a family of quite extraordinary courage and tenacity. Her young parents seem, from the start, to have refused to accept anything but the most precise diagnoses of their daughter's ailments and from the time that Cushta was a week old onwards they devoted themselves to a way of life that was primarily designed to assure her—behind the mist of her own cognitive feebleness—that they were fighting with her. (That sounds dramatically heroic, but when you read Dorothy Butler's account of their months of daily and nightly vigils, comforting an ill and fractious baby, you realize that it is an altogether more dogged courage—the sustaining of a perverse, humane optimism in the face of conditions that make only for deepest depression.)

Given such love and determination it is moving to read how it gained its triumph. Against odds that don't seem to have been much reduced by the attitude of the medical profession, Cushta's parents won through, first to the discovery that her handicaps stemmed from genetic and not cerebral causes, and secondly to a complete justification of their close involvement with her at all times—and it is in the course of this involvement that books claim such a crucial part.

During the stress and confusion of Cushta's first few months of life her parents turned to books as one means towards giving her something to focus on—as well as giving themselves a link to something beyond, but touching, their baby. Nursery rhymes and poems were read and sung (how nice to find so early and so delighted a response to "The Owl and the Pussycat"). Pictures were looked at (the

large, stylized drawings of Dick Bruna for instance). Pages were turned and scrutinized, and books, simply by their physical form, built up a sense of continuity within change.

To a child for whom so much of outside experience was intangible or a blur of ill defined movement the varied world of books proved to be a source of intense satisfaction. It is fascinating to read of Cushta's highly individual mode of coming to terms with them—her reactions to their visual stimulus (because of her difficulties in eye-focus she was often drawn to the shape of printed letters as much as to pictures) and the parts they played in encouraging her towards the refining of her sense of touch and manual control.

Above all though, it was as a source of language that Cushta's books proved so vital—at once as raw vocabulary and as a means to master and give pattern to experience. As Dorothy Butler charts the little girl's development from retarded baby to confident child one marvels at the degree to which the love of her parents and the "extended family" around her has been reinforced by the secondary life that she has gained from stories (the comedy of John Burningham's *Mr Gumpy's Outing*, the catastrophe of *Three Billy Goats Gruff*) and the relief for language richly used. This is the most impressive for the coolness of Dorothy Butler's account and its dispassionate documentation—no grandmotherly gush here, but the working up of a thesis submitted for the diploma of education at the university of Auckland.

It can, of course, be argued that all this amounts to a very special case. Here is a handicapped child who is at the

centre of a caring family—which is moreover deeply knowledgeable about books (Dorothy Butler is a leading children's bookseller in New Zealand). But—despite egalitarian rhetoric—it must be said that all children are, in their way, special cases and that for them, as for Cushta, there is no substitute for the adult as a "human link" to the enrichment that comes from books.

Corroboration of this point comes usefully to hand in another recent publication, a pamphlet by Jill Bennett called *Learning to Read with Picture Books* (Stroud: The Thimble Press, £1.20). Here an experienced infant teacher from London explicitly confirms Dorothy Butler's view that the enjoyment of reading stems not from dull, schematic processes—the stuff of training college lectures—but from the cheerful sharing of language "natural to the human state".

Her pamphlet is, in effect, a booklet with long, conversational paragraphs, charting one course across an ocean fairly teeming with possibilities—from such simple, wordless playbooks as John Goodall's *Creepy Castle* to extended picture stories like James Stevenson's *Could be Worse*.

There is nothing prescriptive about the list—it is just the books that work for Mrs Bennett and the lucky children that she teaches. It is also, though, as good a general proof as one needs of the pleasures that can flow from an informed bibliography.

A touring exhibition based on *Learning to Read with Picture Books* may be hired from the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street W1X 4BB.

Brian Alderson

مكتبة الأطفال

THE ARTS

Walton writing 'Medley' for brass

At the age of 77, Sir William Walton is currently working on his first venture in the field of brass band music. The work is based on an early score for the ballet *The First Shoot*, written for a revue in 1936.

Sir William has been writing much less in recent years and thus there was delight at his publishers, Oxford University Press, when they received the score of *Medley for Brass Band*. However, the composer has now withdrawn the score and is completely revising the piece, basing the work even more firmly on the music from the ballet. He has given the revised work what must be one of the longest titles in the history of music: *Medley for Brass Band, based on the music from the ballet 'The First Shoot' by Frederick Ashton and Cecil Beaton, Revised Score for Brass Band, by William Walton (Follow The Sun, Adelphi Theatre, 1936).*

Sir William has also continued to work intermittently on a third symphony but the piece remains a very long way from completion. Plans are now being made for his eightieth birthday celebrations in 1982 and there are hopes that it will be possible to present performances of many of his lesser-known works as well as the more popular pieces.

Elsewhere the involvement of classical composers in the brass band world is continuing: Harrison Birtwistle has received an award from the Arts Council to undertake a commission for the 1981 Leeds Festival, which will be performed by the Leeds Festival Chorus and the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Meanwhile, the conductor, Howard Snell, has discovered an unpublished overture by Ralph Vaughan Williams which was apparently written for brass band. The overture is based on *Henry V* and appears to have been composed around 1933-34. It contains a number of old English tunes, such as the Agincourt Song, which eventually found its way into the music written by Walton for the film of *Henry V*.

Mr Snell hopes to broadcast the overture with the Desford Colliery Band in the near future.

Martin Huckerby

Serious pleasures

New London Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie

The courts of Renaissance Germany, like those elsewhere in Europe, had their jolly evenings when the local princeling heard his choir sing or even himself indulging in a discreet lute to the sound of his band. The music that entertained them, however, suggests that they took their pleasures not just seriously, but earnestly, which is not quite the same thing.

For all the colour, then, that went into Monday night's programme, entitled "Ein Guter Hofmann", one was left with the impression of a vitality kept soberly curbed and an expressive range austere and constricted. Even in the drinking songs the lute seemed forced, and the tone of melancholy that prevailed was itself muted and never truly heartfelt.

The Germans, in the early 1500s as much as in Bach's day, were eager contrapuntists, and expended much ingenuity in setting afresh melodies familiar to their hearers.

This predilection provided Philip Pickett and the programme, with a happy way of avoiding the piecemeal effect that so often characterizes secular music. Besides a selection from the Hofmann repertoire, we had several groups where the same tune, generally a popular song, was heard sometimes as a top voice, sometimes half-concealed within an elaborate texture, sometimes serving as a basis for an idiomatic instrumental piece.

The longest group comprised eight settings of "Ich stund an einem Morgen", a sad little tale of lovers parting, which began with tenor (John Potter), recorder, viol and organ, moved on to a three-voice version with tenor, violin and organ, then to a very gentle organ setting, and ended with verses sung by tenor, then tenor and baritone (Paul Hillier), with cornet, dulciana and sackbut. Five of the eight were by Schütz.

There was ample variety of sound. Most of the robust pieces were done with cornets and sackbuts, and a few with a bitingly nasal, reed-toned organ group; for softer and dulciana, we had recorders and dulcians, a lively rebeck, a viol, a lute and a harp.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
ALDWYCH THEATRE
SPELLBINDING
Tonight 7.30
Pt3 The Gods
—THE—
GREEKS

Glenda Jackson's controlling convictions

Glenda Jackson's first West End appearance was 17 years ago in the play *Affie*, since then a combination of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Hollywood and television has kept her fairly far removed from the commercial theatre, though when she did return to it a couple of years ago it was also in a one-name show, *Stevie*, and at the end of this month she reopens the Duke of York's Theatre as the title character in Andrew Davies's new play *Rose*. Miss Jackson is not, however, much of a believer in that sort of coincidence.

"I think I'd have done the play whatever he'd called it; it just came in the post and I read it and thought I'd like to have a go. I seem to have been doing mainly film lately" (*Hopscotch* with Walter Matthau and then Robert Altman's *Health*, both yet to be released over here) "and I thought maybe it was time to get back to the stage. *Rose* is a Coventry teacher with a half-dead marriage, but the play's a comedy for all that. Not necessarily a Midlands comedy, just comedy about people who happen not to live in London."

One of that quartet of British actresses (the others being Maggie Smith, Diana Rigg and Vanessa Redgrave) who have managed to make themselves stars on stage and screen both sides of the Atlantic, Glenda Jackson is now rising 44, and not altogether convinced that the present shock-horror crisis of a financial cutback in the arts will necessarily do the theatre much long-term harm.

"I'm not advocating starvation for actors or a return to the bad old days or anything like that; but I do think an awful lot of government money has been poured into what I'd call the embroidery of the theatre, the trappings that it doesn't really need. What we're short of is new writers, not cash; we're also a bit short on dedication to the business. The idea of a really good major classical company is in a way a contradiction in terms, because the bigger it has to be in order to cope with large-scale plays the less real artistic control anyone can have. When with the RSC I did the *Marat/Sade* for Peter Brook in 1965 there was an intensity of commitment from the company, and a kind of total involvement in what Brook was doing. By the time we did *Antony and Cleopatra* two years ago that intensity had totally gone. People were just too involved in other pro-

ductions or their own off-stage lives to give Brook the kind of absolute dedication he needs and expects. Why else would he be in Paris working in a group of less than a dozen?"

"Control" is a word that comes up often in conversation with Glenda Jackson. Why then has she never thought of forming a company of her own?

"I've thought, and it simply isn't feasible; people who are already in control of companies aren't about to give up that control lightly, and women are still very badly placed. When an actress gets to 40 there's really nothing new to stretch her until she reaches 60 and can start on the old ladies, and in some curi-

ous way the fact that nobody writes great parts for middle-aged women also affects their standing in the theatre generally. Nobody thinks of us as leaders because we don't get to play leaders, and you can't force a writer to create roles he doesn't want to write. So the women's groups that have arisen have had to be narrowly feminist or political, and the theatre is still at its highest reaches a male preserve. It seems to me no accident that the Cottesloe, the one experimental branch of the National, has become a totally male arena dedicated to 'masculine' work such as the current O'Neill season. Even the RSC find it hard to keep good women for long."

Divorced now from Roy Hordges, but still living in Rock Heath with a son and a sister, Glenda Jackson manages to keep her private life just that: "One of the good things about the English theatre is that you can go home at night after work and not be disturbed; all the bustling in America for jobs means that you never really get to go home at all. But I'm very happy working there as long as I know it's just three months and then home, though I only ever do a film if I really like the script. My view of the Inland Revenue is that I'll pay them all I owe, but if they start getting really greedy then that's their problem. I won't work just for the

tax money. Acting's hard enough when you're doing what you think is right; if you think it's the wrong script for you then it must be really impossible. The older I get the more convinced I am that the best performances are the ones you give before you know any better. It gets more and more frightening from then on."

"One of the other great difficulties about acting in this country is that the idea of expressing parts of yourself when you go on stage is still largely unknown. People pay lip service to the idea of company life, but deep down they still like the old star system, whereby one or two people carry a show and the rest can avoid much responsibility for its success or failure. The great belief is that you shouldn't show how much you care, how much the theatre matters to you; a kind of apathy sets in and actors in a long run tend just to turn up for a couple of hours in the evening and think they've done the job."

For her first 10 years in the business, Glenda Jackson reckons she was 99 per cent unemployed; for the last 10 years she has been able to know at least 12 months ahead which were the scripts that lay waiting.

"I worry about the future, not much about my future though; I just go on doing the films and plays I like and if they work out well that's fine. If not, on to the next. You can't worry about reviews, at least not film reviews. If they are bad it's a delayed wake, if good then a distant celebration. Either way they're not going to change a single frame of the picture. Theatre reviews are different, and you kind of hope they are going to be constructive or useful instead of the boring old end-of-term reports that most papers publish."

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Human richness in face of death

A Life
Old Vic

Ned Chaillet

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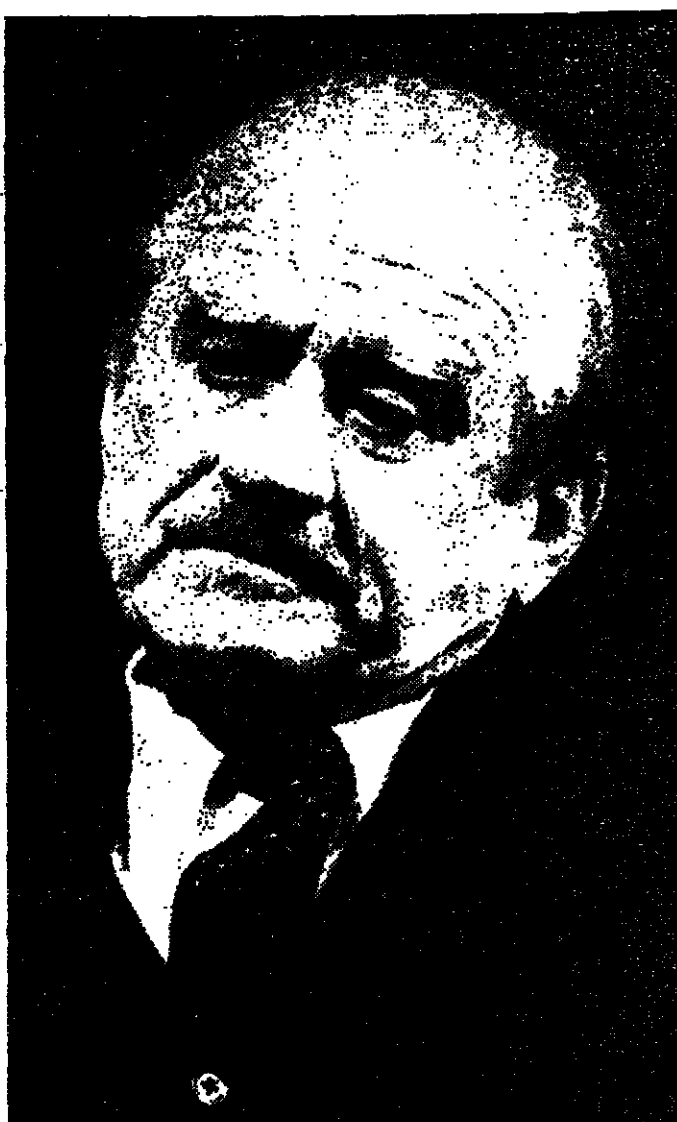
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Bernard Levin on why the Olympic Games should be moved from Moscow

How the IOC helped to tear up its Charter

When President Carter, promptly supported by Mrs Thatcher, made his call for the removal of the Olympic Games from Moscow, or failing that for a boycott, two separate quavering choruses were to be heard opposing the idea. One applauded the spirit of the proposal, but declared that it was impracticable; that the time was too short for another election or even a group of cities to be selected as an alternative venue, that a boycott, to be effective, would need to involve a substantial number of nations, which substantial number would never be willing, that in any case such action would not really upset the Soviet rulers.

This party has, understandably, begun to fall silent; already, the most reliable counts suggest, some 40 nations have indicated their willingness to be part of a joint international move, and these include, in addition to the United States and Britain, a substantial number of countries, including Australia, Canada, Kenya, Japan and China, whose athletes stand very good chances of winning medals. Obviously, a great deal of diplomacy is going on in private, and the number of countries willing to join a collective boycott or transfer must be growing. And certainly the increasing public rage of the Soviet authorities suggests that they realize very well indeed what a blow the collapse of their plans for a huge propaganda victory would be to them, both externally and internally (to say nothing of vast sums in the western currencies they so desperately lack).

As for the argument that no other city could be ready in time for the summer Games, I have never thought that anything in it, given sufficient cash resources (it would be a shrewd move on the part of President Carter to announce that the United States would underwrite the cost of transport for the Games and the effort (Montreal, where the 1976 facilities are still largely intact, certainly has the knowledge and skill to do it again), the mountain could be moved, and if it were decided to split the Games among several cities, the television linking that would bring them to the international audience (in any case several hundred times as many as would watch the Games "live" wherever they might be held) could likewise be arranged.

It can be done, then. I have already given my own reasons, a few weeks ago, for saying that it

should be, and I do not intend to repeat them today. Instead, I want to examine the other chorus, the one whose members sing not of the difficulty of depriving Moscow of the Games, but of the impracticability of it. It would be wrong, they say, "to let politics interfere in sport". This foolish and empty claim is made chiefly by Lords Killanin and Exeter, both implacably determined not to allow anyone to do anything to the Olympics that might displease the Soviet Union, and in this aim they are fully, indeed abjectly, supported by the Chairman of the British Olympic Committee; and, as we may say, and Sir Denis Follows.

Before I go into detail, let us consider first the vast impudence of the argument. In the Soviet Union every aspect of life, public and private, is subordinated to the demands of politics; indeed, this principle is fundamental to the very definition of itself that the Soviet Union proclaims. Not a word may be legally published, not a school class may go through its lessons, not a factory may consider its production, not an artist may pursue his vocation, not a citizen may go abroad, unless their activities and indeed their very intentions conform to the political demands of the state.

In no field of Soviet life is this principle applied more intensely or more completely than in sport. All Soviet athletes are constantly reminded that they are part of the Soviet state, that the principle of Soviet Communism is to be served, and that their activities are directed towards the furtherance of its aims, that they compete not for personal achievement (which indeed is condemned) but in service to the political ideals of the Soviet Union. And in no aspect of Soviet sporting life is this principle more rigidly applied or more frequently insisted upon than in that of Olympic participation.

There is no nation in the world—not even, since the dismantling of Mao's China—where Olympic athletes are without qualification obliged to be the servants of their country's politics to the extent that obtains in the Soviet Union. Many nations, of course, strive to gain international political prestige from the performance of their Olympic athletes; only in the Soviet Union and the lands of her empire is this so nakedly and



The cuddly bear emblem of the Moscow Games: what about the Olympic spirit?

so unwaveringly the only purpose of participating in the Games. And yet we hear from Killanin, Exeter and Follows the same ludicrous claim that to boycott the Moscow Games, or to take other sanctions against them, would be to bring politics into Olympic sport, as a man might say that tossing a packet of Saxe overboard in the middle of the Atlantic would be bringing salt into the sea.

Driven out of that claim, however, the apologists for the participation by the West and the Third World in these wholly politicized Games will fall back on their next line of defence: that the Soviet Union was awarded the Games on proper Olympic criteria, that she has so far obeyed and gives every sign of continuing to obey, the stipulations required from the host country, and that there is therefore legitimate ground on which the Games can be withdrawn from Moscow, or indeed on which other nations may refuse to participate.

That claim is even more impudent, and even more lacking in substance or even truth, than the first one. The first is that, under the terms of the Olympic Charter itself, Moscow should never have been awarded the Games and is not entitled to have them; indeed, the Soviet Union is barred from even participating.

To start with, the Soviet Union is in breach of no fewer than three of the Olympic Charter's "Fundamental Principles". Number One of these declares that Olympic participation is supposed "to educate young people through sport in a spirit of better understanding between each other and of friendship, thereby helping to build a better and more peaceful world". The Soviet Union does not even pretend to follow this injunction, its Olympic effort being entirely directed to the glory of Soviet Communism.

Number Three of the Fundamental Principles lays down that "No discrimination in them [the Olympic Games] is allowed against any country or person on grounds of race, religion or politics". No Soviet athlete who showed the slightest deviation from the politics of the Soviet state would be permitted to compete in the Games, whether in Moscow or elsewhere; few who had incurred the displeasure of the Soviet authorities (say, by protesting against the official Soviet policy of anti-Semitism) would be allowed to take part; no Christian or other religious believer who had asserted the claims of his religion would be permitted to compete.

Number Four of the Fundamental Principles simply declares that "Every person or organization that plays any part whatsoever in the Olympic movement shall be bound by its rules", which, as I shall show, renders ineligible for participation the Soviet Olympic Committee and, for that

matter, the municipal authorities of Moscow.

For instance, much has been made, by the appeasers, of the "autonomy" of national Olympic committees, and indeed in western countries they are genuinely independent bodies. But this assertion, repeatedly made by Sir Denis Follows and Lord Exeter in particular, is a two-edged sword, for the appropriate Olympic rule (24c) declares that "National Olympic committees must be autonomous and must resist all pressures of any kind whatsoever, whether of a political, religious or economic nature, which might lead them to question a Soviet athlete's participation in the Games without a Soviet official being present, or, if the questions were deemed political, at all."

Those facts debar the Soviet Olympic Committee from playing any part in the Games: Moscow as a city is ruled out by the false answers given by her officials to the Olympic questionnaire that every host city must complete satisfactorily. Question one, for instance, asks "Can you guarantee that your government will agree to abide by, as a priority, the International Olympic Committee Rules and By-laws throughout the

duration of the Games?" Moscow answered "yes", which was a lie, indeed a double lie, for not only were the Moscow officials unable to guarantee any such thing; they knew very well that their government was, and would continue to be, in clear breach of the IOC rules.

Question three asks "Are there any laws, regulations or customs that would limit, restrict or interfere with the Games in any way?" To this, Moscow answered "no", another lie; the whole of Soviet state policy, custom and law would limit, restrict and interfere with the Games, in the ways I have already listed and a good many more. And so it was told in the answer to the question "Do you undertake to accept the accreditation of any journalist whatever as long as he is proposed by the National Olympic Committee of his country?"

The false answer given was "yes", but of course the true one, not given, is "no". (Would the Soviet authorities accept Alexander Ginzburg as a journalist at the Games? Would they accept Vladimir Bukovsky? Would they accept Leonid Plyushko? Would they accept Robert Conquest or Brian Crozier? Would they accept Josef Josten or Jiri Pelikan? Would they accept me?)

And another lie was told in the answer to the question "Can the journalists' free movement in the Olympic zone and the free transmission of information be guaranteed?" Again, the answer was "yes", but obviously no western journalist would be permitted to move freely in the Olympic zone, or to question a Soviet athlete without a Soviet official being present, or, if the questions were deemed political, at all.

There is more, much more. In that part of the Olympic Charter which deals with "Organization of the Olympic Games", Section 2 declares that the Organizing Committee (that is, the Soviet one) may only use its powers to represent the International Olympic Committee; obviously the Soviet committee will use its powers to represent only the Soviet government and its interests, and to the detriment of all other interests. One of the most important of all the basic rules, contained in Section 26 of the Charter, declares that "A competitor must not be, or have even been, a professional athlete" and that "The International Olympic Committee Rules and By-laws throughout the

competitors and persons whose services are necessary to the competitors may live in the Olympic village"; the Olympic village in Moscow will be crawling with KGB officials, there to see that no Soviet athletes enter too wholeheartedly into the spirit of the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Games.

But even that does not exhaust the full catalogue of breaches of the Olympic Charter by the Soviet Union, any one of which would, if the International Olympic Committee took any notice of its charter, disqualify that country from the entire Olympic movement, let alone from holding the Games on her territory. And I have kept what is perhaps the most flagrant breach of the rules to the last. Under the heading "The Olympic Games Are Not for Profit", the Olympic Charter declares that "neither individuals, organizations or nations shall be permitted to profit from them [the Games], politically or commercially."

The whole of the Soviet Union's participation in the Games, and more particularly her holding of them in Moscow, is designed with a view to political profit. Nothing is at this moment being subordinated in Moscow to the political profit needed and expected from the Games (all buildings have been halted throughout the city in order to concentrate resources exclusively on the Olympic work); throughout the Soviet Union, every organization and individual connected with the preparation for, or participation in, the Games is being used for that purpose, and that purpose only: every public word spoken on the subject emphasizes that political profit is the only meaning the Soviet Union recognizes in the Games, and not merely is this, but it is the only meaning of the Olympic Charter condemned by the I.O.C.: Lord Killanin, Lord Exeter and Sir Denis Follows have the gall to imply that if any action is taken by other countries that might in any way limit or reduce the political profit accruing to the Soviet Union it is those countries, and not the Soviet Union, that will be culpable.

Today I have presented the facts, and asked the crucial questions of you. Tomorrow I shall draw the conclusions.

(To be concluded)
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Calculated risks of Operation Countrymen

"Copper's car", someone in the back of the car growled. The driver gently revved the engine, ready to pull away. The patrol car disappeared, but the driver's hand still hovered over the gear stick. Two constables wandered along the pavement. As they vanished down an alley the driver relaxed.

The officers involved in Operation Countrymen are as wary on the streets of London as any of the professional criminals who have provided the basis of their investigations. A meeting with even the most peripheral of contacts requires great caution.

Despite the revelations of the past 10 years, police corruption in London is not a modern phenomenon. In the 1870s three officers in the emerging detective force were jailed for profit-taking collusion with a gang of swindlers.

More than a century later the wheel has come full circle. Countrymen is investigating members of the modern CID force, but not out of the inquiry following the 1870 trial. At the end of the day there may well be yet another inquiry.

But after 18 months the 80 volunteer members of the investigating force are at the sign of a faintly glowing light in Dorset, Hampshire and the other provincial forces to which they belong.

As time passes, criticism and suspicion flourish. Is Countrymen taking too long? Are the provincial men wise to London's peculiarities and capable of coping with London's professional criminals and their wiles? As to time, the officers themselves reply that the nature of the inquiry and the criminal sources of the allegations call for a slow, painstaking approach. If they are criticized for not understanding the ways of the big city, the answer is that if this means operating corruptly then that is certainly true.

More disturbing are the reports of "nabbling" by London officers. This was at first disputed but Sir David McNeave, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, recently said that such activities would not be countenanced, which implies that there have been problems.

Then there were reports about the cautious approach of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A member of the DPP's staff has joined the Countrymen team, but the "critic" now complains he is not sufficiently senior.

If Countrymen suffers the slings and arrows of criticism and speculation, the Metropolitan Police must feel like an embattled warrior.

Countrymen could not have come at a worse time. The police service in general seems to be fighting a vicious battle with its critics. Apart from this confrontation the Metropolitan Police still has to answer the questions over the death of Sir Blair Peach, the value of the special patrol group.

Not surprisingly, morale is under attack. Some Scotland Yard officers believe their senior would like nothing better than to resign. Among the detective force, unlikely and impractical though the rumour is, even as a rumour it is damaging.

One senior officer recently expressed his disappointment that when the force notices up a "success" it is lost in fresh press reports about a "failure". Exasperation at the reports reached the stage late last year when the force's own newspaper attacked several newspapers in return.

There must be fear that an atmosphere of distrust is building up between police and public, which in turn will affect public confidence. Some years ago Scotland Yard took public pride in the fact that journalists were prepared to pass on allegations to complaints investigation bureau rather than print them first. The tide is turning.

For their own part, CID officers make it plain to would-be complainants that their track record is good, they are always on call and they will still be operating long after Countrymen. But the damage is done. Countrymen has had far more complaints than the officers can handle.

By its very existence Countrymen has caused injuries to confidence. But that must be a calculated risk. The knowledge general in the 1870s was that the allegations were "a thunderclap to the community". In 1980 the storm has yet to break.

Stewart Tendler

Reuter's: all the news that's fit to be computerized

When Mr Gerald Long took over as managing director of Reuter's in 1963, two thirds of the news agency's revenue of £3m came from subscribers in newspapers, television and radio. The remaining third came from subscribers to Reuter's specialized economic services.

Now, 17 years later, those specialized services—revolutionized by the computer and video screen—account for 86 per cent of a revenue staggeringly increased to some £70m, the media for a mere 14 per cent.

Small wonder, therefore, that when Reuter's recently announced the merging of the newsgathering operations of their economic and general services, there were fears that the ascendancy of the money-makers was now complete: which would, of course, be not only un-British but also a bad show for journalists.

Mr Long, a former Reuter correspondent in Germany, France and Turkey who at 56 retains a lean and hungry look, believes such fears are misconceived.

The first misconception, admittedly fostered by Reuter's own division, is that there is a real distinction between economic and general news. More than ever, he believes, people in the industrialized countries have become more conscious of the effect on everyday life and on their pockets of international events: witness the effect of the crises in Iran and Afghanistan on the supply and price of oil, and on the price of gold.

"To quote the classic case: if someone assassinated the President of the United States, that is general or market

news," he asked rhetorically in an interview at Reuter's Fleet Street headquarters. Or take the Reuter man covering the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Much of his output would be of interest mainly to those dealing in commodities. But if the United States exports grain to the Soviet Union, that is also a matter of great interest to the "media services".

The second misapprehension is, Mr Long believes, peculiar to journalists, who think of news as something which appears solely in the media of newspapers, radio and television. Gripped by a curious form of masochism, they insist on seeing their form of journalism as under threat. "Journalists like to feel that their role is the essential one, and that everything else is subsidiary. They are disappointed by the reality of the world: it doesn't always give first place to journalists. I find this quality rather engaging in its way."

The reality at Reuter's, on which Mr Long has left his firm stamp, is that management gives equal place to journalists, to the engineers who design and operate the very complex technology, and to the salesmen who sell. Among the journalists themselves there has been, he assures one, no disadvantaged or neglected group.

Why then, had the distinction between specialized economic and general news services grown up? Largely by accident, he explains.

When Baron Paul Julius Reuter set up business with his two famous pigeons in Aachen in 1850, they carried messages almost entirely about the mar-

kets which Reuter's now serves with its specialized services: securities, commodities and currencies. When Reuter came to London in 1851, it was seven years before the first newspaper agreed to accept general news.

The man who succeeded him, Sir Roderick Jones, saw Reuter's above all as a news service with the empire as its main market. Reuter's became an institution, and general news was in the ascendant. But Jones appreciated the importance of economic news, and started a separate economic service in the 1920s.

Then in 1944 Reuter's acquired a company called Cornetbury, which it proceeded to use as the vehicle for its economic and financial services. Mr Long recalled that when he took over as chief executive in 1963, Reuter's was still operating this important service without using what was perhaps its chief asset, its own name. Everyone agreed that should change.

In 1964, the economic service was greatly boosted when Reuter's became the first world-wide organization to launch computerized stock and commodity market services. Then in the early 1970s Reuter's Monitor service became the fastest reliable means of receiving foreign exchange and money market rates, quoted directly by banks and other institutions onto video screens.

Later this year, technology will reach the point where foreign exchange dealers will be able not just to follow worldwide currency fluctuations but also to close a deal on their Reuter video screen. And so the specialized

economic services boomed, while the soaring costs of maintaining a world wide news service have been in no way matched by growth in revenue from media subscribers. "The media services are competing in a subsidized market," Mr Long explained. The world's full of news services being sold at subsidized rates. There are many reasons for wanting to distribute news which have nothing to do with getting an economic return."

The overall number of Reuter's foreign correspondents has increased to just under 400. But increasingly it was found that to designate correspondents for one service or another was divisive, as Mr Long put it, "a nonsense, given the overlapping of interests and duties. In posts like Brussels the two services were integrated; and in 1977 Mr Michael Reupke was appointed editor-in-chief in London to coordinate all editorial operations."

Now the last bastion of the division has crumbled. No longer will they be separated by two floors at 85, Fleet Street, and have separate editors. Mr Manfred Pagel, the German who previously edited the economic service, takes over the combined operation outside North America (which remains separate), and Mr Reupke joins Reuter's top management body, the executive committee. Mr Long hopes the merger will promote the most efficient use of Reuter's journalistic resources, and benefit subscribers with both specialized and general interests.

Roger Berthoud

The shop stewards' group behind Mr Robinson

An announcement is expected today on the inquiry by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers into the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson by British Leyland. CLIFFORD WEBB discusses the history of the BL Combined Trade Union Committee, of which Mr Robinson is still chairman, and whose attitude will be an important element in the overall reaction to the AUEW's findings.

BL Combined Shop Stewards Committee prefers to be called BL Combined Trade Union Committee these days, although all its members are shop stewards. It is neither part of, nor recognized by, any trade union and is frequently a thorn in the side of such officials. To date most industrial reporters have chosen to stick to the old title because it conveys a truer picture of this controversial body.

The activities of the committee have been reported with varying prominence for the past 15 years, although little is known about its background work. Even when its four senior officers were hauled before management disciplinary hearings in November and its chairman, Mr Derek Robinson, dismissed for a "disruptive shop-floor campaign" against the Edwards recovery plan, the group managed to avoid the spotlight.

It came into being in the mid 1960s when the veteran Communist convert at Longbridge, Mr Dick Etheridge, began to call meetings of conveners from other plants. The intention was to swap details of piecework rates, wage drift and possible moves to change the use of factories that time it did not have an obvious political platform.

It met not more than half a dozen times a year and preferred to operate quietly but with the creation of British Leyland in 1968 came major changes in its formation and activities. The new arrivals—Triumph-Rover, Jaguar and

Leyland Motors (truck and bus)—had not had combines of their own and their inclusion gave Mr Etheridge a much more powerful bargaining machine.

About that time, Mr Len Brindle, another Communist Party member, had become convenor, at Leyland trucks and had an excellent power base. Leyland employees were poorly paid compared with the group's car workers. By joining the combine Mr Brindle knew he would gain access to detailed information on wages and the support of vastly experienced negotiators such as Mr Etheridge. It was no surprise when he brought Leyland into the combine.

In the early 1970s the combine led a campaign against the replacement of piecework by measured daywork. Prolonged negotiations had become the most effective force for the shop stewards' movement throughout British Leyland, but it made modifications in product difficult and effective management impossible. In the event, the combine lost the battle, but made BL pay a heavy price in increased wages.

BL got into serious financial difficulties in December 1974. The Labour Government gave financial help and appointed an inquiry team under the chairmanship of Sir Don—later Lord—Ryder. Meanwhile Mr Etheridge had retired and had been replaced by Mr Derek Robinson as Longbridge convenor and chairman of the combine. A Communist Party member of

the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Robinson had been carefully groomed by Mr Etheridge. He quickly gained in stature when the Ryder team began consultations with a group of trade unionists who included himself and Mr Brindle. Whether by choice or coincidence, BL manual workers were represented in these talks by officers of a totally unofficial body.

While the Ryder plan, with its over optimistic targets for production, and employment, was still running, Mr Robinson and the combine adopted a constructive role. But following the 1977 reorganization, which led to the appointment of Sir (then Mr) Michael Edwards as chairman—determined to cut out the fat, to set more realistic targets and to tackle industrial relations bottlenecks—the unions withdrew from participation and the combine began an aggressive "blocking" campaign.

Mr Robinson and his colleagues resisted almost every change proposed by management and nailed its colours firmly to the mast of full union involvement in setting work standards and manning levels. At the same time the combine became more politicized in its propaganda: three of its four officials—Mr Robinson, Mr Brindle (vice-chairman) and Mr Jack Adams (secretary)—are Communist Party members.

Those three signed the now famous green pamphlet issued after last October's seven-to-one ballot vote by BL car workers supporting the Edwards recovery plan. The pamphlet urged working and disrupting to prevent closures and the transference of products between factories, and was the direct cause of the disciplinary action which resulted in Mr Robinson's dismissal.

CAIRO DIARY

The kites are back in Cairo, wheeling watchfully above the dusty, breathtaking prospect of minarets and domes, tenement blocks, slums and palaces between the Nile and the distant eroded ramparts of Salah el-Din's Citadel, at the foot of the eastern Mokattam Hills.

After a few years' absence, these traditional predators, long since converted to scavenging and bold enough to snatch a sandwich from the unsuspecting human hand, are once again, it seems, finding conditions more agreeable. Ecologists feared they had gone for good, driven away by a combination of traffic fumes and burning rubbish, pesticides, human population pressure—squatters amid the Dead City mausoleums disturbing their nocturnal rest—and the passage of low-flying helicopters.

Their return follows, as it happens, a diminution in the frequency of the latter. Even if they are the obvious means of evading the traffic paralysis that grips Cairo 12 hours a

day, helicopter flights for the President and special guests are now apparently rated as risky. One reason is that the landing approach to Mr Sadat's riverside mansion at Dokki is overlooked by high apartment buildings.

The current palliative for the traffic dilemma, from which ambulances, police and fire-engines struggle to extricate themselves by recourse to pavements, is the construction of fly-overs. These do little more, however, than slow the growth of wider congestion; hundreds of new cars are registered each week and a combination of those aged 30 or more years still limping along testifies to the Egyptian capacity for rugged improvisation.

If otherwise indicated in a flat land, cycling is identified with the lower orders, and is also hazardous because of erratic driving. So private cars and taxis form the sole alternative to creaky public transport, in which the toll even Egyptian cheerfulness is stretched thin. Agility for access by window,

or strength for clinging to the outside, is often required of any commuter determined to leave the waiting crowd by the next listing bus.

A similar situation prevails in housing, though building is by far the most evident urban activity and new towns are springing up in the desert to the east and west. An official report says the country is short of 3,600,000 flats but promises confidently that "the housing issue will be solved once and for all in 20 years".

A city literally bursting at the seams with 8,000,000 inhabitants, a fourfold rise in 30 years—the "greater Cairo" area is estimated to have 14,000,000—illustrates dramatically a birthrate that dwarfs all Egypt's other internal difficulties. The population, now over 41,000,000, will reach 65,000,000 by the turn of the century.

In the face of this unwavering proliferation, President Sadat, in 1974 opened the country to foreign capital and western expertise, which in

conjunction with Egypt's own energies and an anticipated reduction in military spending, are intended to stimulate economic growth. But the process is impeded by the labyrinthine bureaucracy and lingering distrust of foreign enterprise.

Apart from the construction work, and an influx of shepherd tourists (among them the first curious Israelis), the most marked effect of "the opening" so far in the capital's daily life seems to be the enrichment of those with—like the kites—a ready eye for the quick change.

Not since Farouk's day has Cairo seen such abundance or heard such tales of soaring baksheesh and fortunes from fiddling. The affluence is confined, as before, to a minority, but their uninhibited consumerism makes the gulf between their lifestyles and those of the others more glaring than anything the latter-day pashas would have permitted themselves. "There's madness for money in the air," as a

banker put it. But the brasserie materialism of this new class—whose Mercedes windcreens sometimes display an invocatory Koran bound in purple velvet—is no asset to Mr Sadat in his handling of a newer problem, the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism. Egypt's present circumstances are no time for flourishing wads of banknotes: to keep pace with inflation, a new hundred-pound note has just been issued.

Religious fervency with political affiliations, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, nominally banned since 1954, is a flourishing element in a city with the Al Azhar mosque and university—roughly the Islamic equivalent of the Vatican—and priding itself on being the spiritual and intellectual heart of the orthodox Sunni-Muslims.

No faith can be physically more accessible: new mosques are everywhere, even improvised on the flat roofs of public office blocks. A huge bus depot has a mosque obviously

put together by the mechanics, its minaret fashioned from empty oil drums of diminishing size. On Fridays side streets may serve as impromptu places of worship, newspapers as a prayer carpet.

If religion that promises all continues to be a solace to the weary, underprivileged, it has also become, over the past decade, the object of increased attention on the part of those reared in easier circumstances. Beards are evidence of this trend at the secular universities as well as the Azhar: girls conceal their hair with head-shawls—one step removed from the veil—many also wearing long white buttoned jackets and voluminous grey skirts. In some districts, youths in skull caps shaking money boxes work the traffic queues, collecting for charities.

If those who wish clearly to label themselves as zealots are in a minority, their sentiments are everywhere, even improvised on the flat roofs of public office blocks. A huge bus depot has a mosque obviously

tion. Now and then, wilder spirits, with sundry other factions, some fanatically opposed to "normalisation" with Israel, stage a demonstration or go for a Coptic church.

If trouble erupts the riot police are there to head-on. Their rough training encampments are strung out beside the twin-lane Canal Zone motorway that runs through the desert from Heliopolis to Ismailia. But the President, sole prominent survivor of the Revolutionary Council to power in 1952, and at due time their usual contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood, relies on more subtle techniques in steering an "Islamic awakening to combat communism".

The emphasis is on utilizing the media, including mosque sermons, plus the preemptive security network, civil and military, but run with a touch lighter than in Nasser's time.

Alan McGregor



This report assesses the political, business and social climate in the Gulf island emirate and includes a two-page economic briefing

مكتبة البحرين

BAHRAIN

Graphic: Richard Draper

Anxiety replaces calm

For Shaikh Isa bin Sultan al-Khalifa, the 46-year-old Emir of Bahrain, the past 12 months have been anxious ones. Nor can he hope for much respite in 1980, for suddenly together with the other Gulf states Bahrain finds itself embroiled in the new Cold War confrontation. It is but the latest of a series of shockwaves to disturb the centuries old calm of this small and friendly island state.

The tremors began in January 1979 with the violent overthrow of the Shah in neighbouring Iran. The most recent and most disturbing to Shaikh Isa and his fellow Gulf rulers came less than a year later—the Soviet seizure of Afghanistan, and the brewing battle of wills between the super-powers for domination of the Gulf.

But despite present anxieties over the future of this vitally important region—jugal vein of the Western world—today's visitor to Al Manamah, Bahrain's capital, encounters no feeling of alarm. Although some American embassy families and non-essential staff were sent home after the Tehran embassy affair (a decision which did not please the Bahraini authorities), no one else shows any sign of packing his bags.

Probably alone among Middle Eastern rulers, Shaikh Isa still drives around the islands without bodyguards or police escort, weaving to his friends, perhaps secure in the knowledge that he is genuinely popular among his 300,000 subjects. The old atmosphere of unhurried calm, so characteristic of Bahrain, still pervades everyday life, whether in the suk or in the

plush offices of the big international banks which have come to roost on the island, although much time is wasted by their staffs reassessing head offices that the end is not yet sight and that business is booming.

Certainly there have been moments of tension during the past months. To the authorities in Bahrain—more than those in any of the other Gulf states—the explosive message of Ayatollah Khomeini gave particular cause for concern. For at least 50 per cent (some put it as high as 60 per cent) of the population are Shi'ite Muslims, while many Bahraini families are of direct Iranian descent.

However, any fears they might have entertained of the Ayatollah's revolution spilling over into Bahrain have so far proved groundless. Troubles—until now, anyway—have been limited to a home-made bomb, some hot-headed sermons, pro-Khomeini wall slogans and several noisy Shi'ite demonstrations.

Diplomatic observers in Al Manamah have been impressed by the way the authorities handled a potentially explosive situation with the right balance of firmness and forbearance. It is no secret, moreover, that the island's security and intelligence is in the canny hands of Mr Ian Henderson, a legendary figure from the Mau-Mau campaign, and Major-General Jim Bell, another Briton.

Despite the fact that Shaikh Isa's rule is unquestionably one of the most liberal in the Middle East, no one would pretend that there are no grievances among Bahrain's Shi'ite population, who largely represent the country's least pri-

vilaged community. However, it is unlikely that many of them would willingly exchange the security and relative prosperity of life under Shaikh Isa and his predominantly Sunni Government, for the uncertainties of the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, much as they might still respect him as a spiritual leader.

Many of us have relatives in Iran from whom we hear tales of economic chaos, food and fuel shortages and other hardships. One Bahraini Shi'ite told me: "As things are there at present, few of us see Iran as a model Islamic state."

Even so, when one Iranian ayatollah—not Khomeini himself—recently raised the age-old spectre of Iran's claim to Bahrain as its "fourteenth province", it must have caused a few flutters in Al Manamah. For the country's very modest defence forces would stand little hope against the armed might of Iran, disarrayed as it is.

Moreover, although without serious validity, it was a claim that Bahrainis had hoped they had finally seen buried for ever when they achieved independence in 1971 and the Shah officially renounced any interest in the islands. They were greatly relieved, therefore, when Khomeini's Government quickly dissociated itself from the claim. However, they are aware that in the event of Khomeini being replaced by a leftist, Moscow-oriented regime, the claim could easily be revived.

The United States abandonment of the Shah—hitherto the Gulf rulers' principal shield against Soviet expansionism in the region,



A traditional Gulf greeting for the Emir (front right) at his palace. Photograph: Ed Mullis.

had been regarded as a model of stable and orderly rule. Now, it too had an enemy within. Although Bahrain is the least rich of the Gulf states, with its modest oil reserves already running down, it feels no less vulnerable in the present strategic tug-of-war than any of its neighbours. Never has Al Manamah felt a greater need for Gulf unity than now.

Either they hang together, or they hang separately, one Western diplomat remarked to me. But apart from seeking closer cooperation with the other Gulf states on the protection of the waterway and their common stake in it, Shaikh Isa and his advisers are keenly aware of the need to preempt those who seek to inflame grievances among his Shi'ite subjects.

Observers note that in the present, two-year, budget, the Government has increased the amount to be devoted to social welfare during 1980-81. Moreover, to cushion Bahrainis as far as possible from the effects of

inflation, it has frozen the price of petrol, electricity and water, while, in 1981, it plans to boost food subsidies from the current BD4m a year to BD6m.

Although it has no elected Parliament (a brief experiment in Western-style democracy was ended in August 1975 when, after 18 months, the National Assembly was dissolved), Bahrain is probably the most liberally-governed of the Gulf states. Some analysts argue, however, that the Emir's easy-going rule makes Bahrain more vulnerable to subversion than the other Gulf states, particularly for anyone launching a concerted campaign to incite the Shi'ites.

But that is not how Shaikh Isa's Government sees it. "Our national cake may not be that big, but so long as it is divided equitably we have nothing to worry about," Yousef Ahmad al-Shirawi, Bahrain's Minister for Development and Industry, confidently says.

Peter Hopkirk

When the oil runs out

Supplying about half the West's energy needs, the oil producing Gulf states occupy the most valuable stretch of real estate in the world, although not all of them are equally rich.

Compared with its very wealthy neighbours, the tiny island emirate of Bahrain has never enjoyed fabulous riches. Although it was the first of the Arab states to strike oil—back in the early 1930s—it is also destined to be the first to see its wells run dry. According to the experts, this should happen in about 1995.

During its thousands of years as a centre of trade and maritime communications, Bahrain has weathered countless changes, always adapting to new circumstances. When the pearling industry collapsed in the 1930s, because of the Japanese discovery of the cultured pearl and the world depression, it was replaced as Bahrain's principal revenue earner by the timely discovery of oil.

Today, with its oil fields declining, Bahrain is endeavouring to move away from an oil-based economy to a service one, although for some years—thanks largely to the continuing rise in oil prices—oil will continue to be its economic mainstay. Diversification, however, is proceeding apace. Already, functioning ventures aimed at earning a living for Bahrainis in the post-oil era include the new dry-dock complex—the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company—and Alba, the Aluminium Bahrain smelter.

Around these, it is hoped, will develop industries to give employment to the island's very high ratio of young, educated people. Tourism is a third industry Bahrain hopes to develop.

However, Bahrain has two other aces which it believes will secure the future well-being of the islanders. The first, which it has already played, is off-shore banking. This, while inviting the occasional fibre about the emirate becoming the home of "suitcase bankers" and the "red-light district" of international banking, has proved an enormous success. Now in its fifth year, the experiment has attracted many of the largest and most important banks in the world.

Here luck, or history, was on its side, for much of Bahrain's off-shore banking success was the direct consequence of the Lebanese civil war which destroyed Beirut as the banking capital of the Middle East. The oil price spiral was also fortuitous, with vast fortunes generated by the boom looking for a secure home.

However, it was not merely good luck which brought over 50 off-shore banking units (known as OBU's) to Bahrain. Apart from the island's record of economic stability, the tax-free status offered, and the more liberal attitude to Western ways (including the consumption of alcohol), Bahrain's heavy investment in communications over the years also paid off heavily.

As Mr Alan Moore, who as director of the Bahrain Monetary Authority masterminded the venture, put it: "The whole banking presence here rests on two things: stability and communications". The slight drop which the OBU's total assets took in November after the seizure of the United States embassy in Tehran underlines the

truth of his first stipulation. Assets can be moved overnight, and Bahrain needs not merely continued domestic stability if the bankers are to stay but also regional stability, something beyond the control of anyone in Al Manamah.

However, the venture destined to change the islanders' lives more than anything else since the discovery of oil nearly half a century ago will be the construction of the long-mooted, four-lane causeway joining Bahrain to the Saudi mainland and scheduled for completion some time in 1984.

Just what its impact will be on the nation's economy and way of life is the subject of endless debate among Bahrainis. Certainly it should give a much-needed shot in the arm to the emirate's hard-pressed construction industry. Al Manamah's underused hotels, too, hope to recoup some of their losses, since the important architects and engineers will have to find temporary homes, preferring no doubt to live in somewhat cheaper Bahrain rather than in teetotal Saudi Arabia.

The hoteliers are also optimistic that the causeway will boost weekend tourism traffic from the Saudi mainland. It is thought, too, that many Westerners working in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia may prefer, if the Saudis permit it, to make their homes in Bahrain and commute the 15 miles or so to and from work, spending their salaries on the island rather than in Dammam or Dhahran. It is also thought that the land link will make it possible for Bahrainis too to commute to Saudi Arabia, thus easing future employment problems.

P.H.

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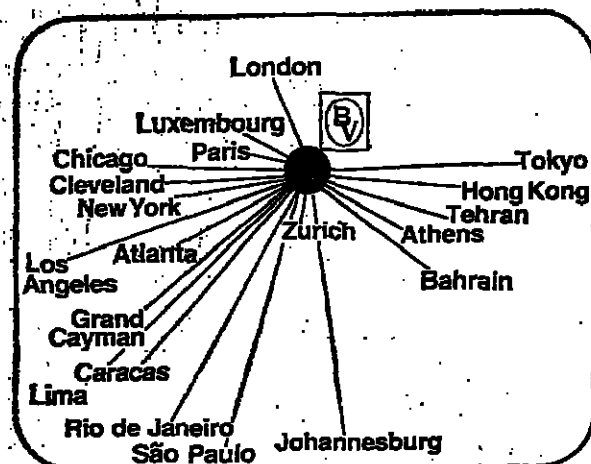
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BAHRAIN

Economy

The future depends on rich neighbours

The fortunes of Bahrain have for a long time depended on outsiders' interest in it. Its self-contained character, geographical location and mild climate made the island the favoured resort of the Resident Agent in The Gulf before the Second World War. The discovery of oil in 1931 came just at the time when the collapse of the pearl trade had made Bahrain a by-word for poverty, even by the then stringent standards of The Gulf.

The prosperity which ensued encouraged other Gulf rulers to allow oil companies on to their domains. But that was about the last time the economy of Bahrain served as an example for its neighbours. In more recent years, as oil production has declined while that of its neighbours has prospered, the emirate has grown more and more dependent on surrounding states. The future of the country, economically and politically, is indissoluble from the richer and more powerful states near by, Iran and Saudi Arabia particularly.

Three factors illustrate the extent of the dependence. The first is that for years the economy has been kept afloat by Saudi Arabian oil. Crude has been pumped into the country: half the output from the offshore Abu Sa'afah field, run by Saudi Arabia, goes to Bahrain. This transfer probably accounted for about half of the

BD205m (\$545m) the Government is estimated to have received from oil revenue last year, or, put another way, it was equivalent to about 10 per cent of gross national product. Bahrain also depends on crude piped from the main land to keep the refinery at Sirra, once the biggest in the Middle East, running economically. The island's own production can supply only 20 per cent of the refinery's 250,000 barrels a day capacity. A measure of how much these two sources are worth to Bahrain is that, of total imports in 1978 of BD792m, even assuming favourable prices, crude oil from Saudi Arabia was worth BD339m.

A second aspect of dependence is direct cash subsidies. Total revenues in the 1979 budget were estimated at BD 255m. According to the forecast breakdown, before oil prices went up, oil would have contributed BD 162m, other revenues BD 68.7m, and grants BD 26.1m. It would have been the third successive year in which such grants were of that magnitude. Moreover, the budget deficit—the third in four years and much the biggest—was forecast at BD 25m. These grants came mainly from Saudi Arabia and without them Bahrain would run a massive budget deficit.

One could say that the projected budget deficit, and the grants combined, equal approximately 20 per cent

of all revenue, though that does not take into account government policy without the grants. Nor does it allow for the fortuitous oil price increases which probably wiped out the estimated deficit. But given inflation, recently running at 20 per cent a year, and a money supply which almost trebled between 1974 and 1978 to about BD 170m, grants amounting to BD \$2.9m over four years have much more influence on the economy's health than might appear at first sight.

The other way in which Bahrain benefits from its neighbours is more general. Their prosperity has provided markets for all the new types of economic activity which the Government has very sensibly tried to promote. These crudely come under two headings, services and industry.

For many years, oil production has been falling at an annual rate of about 6 per cent. Its value has been offset by oil price increases, partly because of action by surrounding Opec members, Bahrain itself only being a member of Oapac. Nevertheless, tentative calculations suggest that oil's contribution to gnp will have been between 1971 and 1984 to 30 per cent. At the same time the island has almost no other assets, and 70 per cent of the population is under 20. Therefore the Government must find jobs.

That is difficult enough, as the current plans recog-

nize. But it is accentuated by the population's rapidly rising expectations. Soon the only society which the people know will be that which offers cradle-to-grave social security. Bahrain is also the Gulf state with the oldest, and in some ways the best developed, education system.

The Government's idea, therefore, has been to employ this young, educated, healthy population in service and manufacturing industries offering the opportunity of improving skills. Of the services, banking is much the most important. Invisible exports generated by the Offshore Banking Units, more or less covered Bahrain's 1978 trade deficit of BD144m. Also there have undoubtedly been employment benefits, though criticism of what is regarded the expatriate bankers' lavish lifestyle emboldened by the success of the Ayemallah across the water, and rent inflation in the mid-1970s caused by foreigners' demand for accommodation, have dulled the advantages.

On the industrial side, two projects dominate. The Aluminium Bahrain smelter was completed in 1972 and provides nearly 2,200 jobs. Although its position has been greatly improved by last year's higher aluminium prices and the plant is to be expanded, profitability remains questionable.

A similar doubt surrounds the Arab Shipbuilding and

Repair Yard, which received its first customer at the end of 1977. Whereas Alba was intended to be a commercial partnership between the Government and foreign companies, most of which subsequently backed out, Asry was devised by Oapac as a way of investing oil revenues. Its value to Bahrain is, therefore, more in the effect on other industries, especially engineering, than in direct exports, the profits from which accrue directly to the country's shareholders.

But whatever success the planners enjoy in setting up new industries and a number of small manufacturing enterprises have sprung up in recent years—the shadow of its neighbours lies long over Bahrain. Saudi Arabia is probably responsible for about half the business of the OBU's, and the banks would certainly not be there without the oil giant. Moreover, the kingdom is meeting the entire cost of the causeway which is to link it with Bahrain, physically emphasizing the economic proximity.

Many Bahrainis are hoping that the causeway will give their economy now slowing down to less than 10 per cent a year, the fillip it needs. That may happen. But in the past year they have discovered another, more disturbing dependence: Iran, which could still pose a serious problem.

Michael Prest

Energy

Oil runs down but gas flares up

One of the lesser known ironies of imperial history is that the British had the rights to oil in Bahrain while the Americans subsequently obtained the rights to oil in Saudi Arabia. Anxiety on the part of the British between the wars to exclude outsiders from their sphere of influence in The Gulf led to United States companies exploring in Saudi Arabia, regarded then as a benighted and barren land. This view was reinforced in the official mind by the discovery in the late 1920s by a New Zealander, Major Frank Holmes, of the island's geological potential.

The first well was spudded at Jebel al-Dukhan in 1931, and within a decade the formerly lowly status of Bahrain had been transformed. The exploitation of Mr Holmes' geological work was carried out by a Canadian company, Caltex, set up in Canada to evade the ban on United States companies. But whatever the intentions of the India Office

and the Foreign Office, which conducted a century-long struggle to control policy in the region, the discovery of oil in Bahrain was effectively the beginning of modern history in The Gulf. Iran, of course, had been a producer since before the First World War; British Petroleum began life as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. But the visible improvements in Bahrain's condition brought about by oil overcame the suspicions of other Gulf rulers about allowing infidel oil companies into their territory. It is perhaps the most valuable contribution Bahrain has made to the region.

Not that oil's contribution to Bahrain has been insignificant. Although production peaked at about 76,000 barrels a day in 1970, it has been the mainstay of the economy for half a century. Bahrain's position as an entrepôt and fishing community, along with some agriculture, so rare in The Gulf, has meant that oil has

not for many years been so high a proportion of gross national product as in neighbouring states. Nevertheless, when oil production was at its greatest it accounted for about 60 per cent of gnp. And that, one should recall, was before Opec had initiated the decade of massive price increases. But those increases have not been enough to prevent oil's share of gnp falling to approximately 40 per cent today, with a further expected decline to 30 per cent in four years.

So the essence of the trouble is that Bahrain's oil is running out much faster than the reserves of surrounding states. Total onshore reserves are put at some 300 million barrels, not much more than a month's Saudi production at present rates. In order not to discount income too quickly, production was planned to fall by 4 per cent a year, a rate of decline which could increase to

6 per cent. At that speed, reserves might last to the end of the century if it refines oil from the offshore Abu Sa'afah field shared with Saudi Arabia and operated by Superior Oil, of the United States. In 1978 the Bahraini share of production rose 8 per cent to 25,500,000 barrels, thus outstripping Jebel al-Dukhan. Total petroleum exports in 1978 were consequently worth BD586m, a 2.2 per cent increase over the year before. Oil is also imported by undersea pipelines from Saudi Arabia to the refinery. In 1978 oil imports into Bahrain amounted to BD339m.

But as oil runs down the relative importance of gas grows. Banoco holds a 75 per cent stake in Bahrain National Gas Company, the rest of the equity being split equally between Bapco and the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation. A plant to process associated gas that would have been flared was completed towards the end of 1979. More significant for the future is the 336 million cu ft a day of non-associated gas from the Khuff field, whose reserves are put at 10,000,000 million cu ft.

Of present gas production, 116 million cu ft a day goes to Aluminium Bahrain's smelter, while 100 million is used to generate electricity and 90 million injected to aid oil recovery. The contribution of gas to the economy is therefore already considerable and was certainly not even dreamed of by Major Holmes. But as with oil, government policy is to make reserves last as long as possible. After launching Bahrain into the modern world, oil and gas will be needed for some time yet to supplement the programme of economic diversification.

Since Caltex started full-scale production in 1939 it has extracted more than 650 million barrels, as well as owning the Sirra refinery, once the biggest in the Middle East. Sirra is being extensively modernized and has a capacity of 250,000 b/d. The Government has not

revealed plans for taking it over.

Sirra is economic because it refines oil from the offshore Abu Sa'afah field shared with Saudi Arabia and operated by Superior Oil, of the United States. In 1978 the Bahraini share of production rose 8 per cent to 25,500,000 barrels, thus outstripping Jebel al-Dukhan. Total petroleum exports in 1978 were consequently worth BD586m, a 2.2 per cent increase over the year before. Oil is also imported by undersea pipelines from Saudi Arabia to the refinery. In 1978 oil imports into Bahrain amounted to BD339m.

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M.P.



Gas burns at Jebel al-Dukhan, where oil production is declining steadily.

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هكنا من الأصل

Finance

Political pressures harm banking centre

Luxurious offices and affluent lifestyles cannot disguise the difficulties facing offshore bankers. An American banker said after a recent trip to Bahrain that he was sceptical about the long-term future of the offshore banking units (OBUs) and was not prepared to recommend his head office to expand its operation there.

He was reflecting bankers' concern that the growing complexity of banking systems in other Gulf states was lessening the need for the OBUs. Much of their business has been picked up by feeding on the inadequacies of Gulf commercial banks. The OBUs are unpopular with other states, which have taken restrictive measures to make life more difficult for offshore bankers.

Confidence is being undermined and business damaged by political uncertainty in the Gulf after the fall of the Shah of Iran and the attack on Mecca's Grand Mosque. Bankers are particularly worried that the United States may take tougher action against Iran. "The whole banking presence here rests on two things—stability and communications", Mr Alan Moore, former adviser to the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA), says. Another banker added: "This is a real marker but it is also very fragile".

Officially bankers remain confident and banks are still applying for offshore licences. Assets continue to grow, but not at the rate of two years ago. They totalled \$27,600m at the end of November, compared with \$23,440m at the end of 1978. Bankers say that the assets of small and medium-sized banks are still growing, but those of the larger ones have fallen a little.

Mr Moore says that assets will grow at "a significantly slower rate than in the past. We always expected it to come. OBUs had achieved a major share and there was a point at which they could not expect to grow much more."

With business slowing, the BMA is anxious not to grant too many more licences. There are already more than 90 banks in Bahrain, 52 of which have offshore licences. Earlier this year bankers were expressing concern that the quality of banks allowed in was falling.

The BMA has cut back on licences in the past six months and will grant them only to banks, mostly from the Far East, which will broaden the market. The Bank of Tokyo, for example, recently received a licence, and Pank Bumiputra Malaysia and Overseas Trust Bank of Hongkong opened offshore banks last year. Further licences for European or American banks are thought unlikely.

Privately, however, bankers admit that political and economic pressures in the Gulf are harming Bahrain's position as a banking centre. Regional activity, which accounts for nearly 70 per cent of business, mostly in Saudi rials and Kuwaiti dinars, has been cut back in recent months. Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have decided to stop denominated big contracts in local currencies. Contractors no longer have to cover any possible exchange rate loss. Also, bankers say, an increasing amount of rial business will be done in Saudi Arabia as the market becomes more advanced.

The Saudi decision will particularly hurt the large offshore banks, which have large rial books. The slight fall in Bahrain's rial business in the third quarter of 1979 could signal a bigger drop. Saudi Arabia provides up to 50 per cent of banks' business and was expected to be the basis of the next 20 years' operations.

Kuwait has greatly resented the flood of funds to the lower Gulf which has made life very difficult for its commercial banks. Changes in its liquidity requirements, introduced in February, 1979, to stop the drain of short-term funds to Bahrain, have blunted the OBUs' competitive edge. The regulations said that deposits of more than one month held with banks outside Kuwait could not be regarded as liquid—25 per cent of a Kuwait bank's deposits have to be liquid. The result is that some OBUs have reduced their dollar book by more than 50 per cent.

Similar regulations are being considered by the U.A.E. Dubai banks concerned at the depressed state of the dirham money market, say it would be only logical for the Currency Board (central bank)

to stop the flow of short-term funds to Bahrain.

Bahraini bankers reject criticisms that they have an unfair advantage and deny responsibility for the drain of funds. They say that money comes to Bahrain only because of the inadequacies of the regional banking system. Some feel that restrictions will harm other states more than Bahrain. Others are more cautious. "As an offshore bank, you are dependent on the regulations of other countries, which are out of your control. If they tighten up, you are bound to have problems", one offshore banker said.

Further cuts in the lucrative Gulf currency dealings will reduce the profitability of the Bahraini offices. Its only advantage as a money-market would then be that it complements London and Singapore to complete a world money market, operating on the different time bands.

The BMA maintains that no one is losing money even though profit margins are getting tighter and there are not the easy profits of the early years. Mr Moore says that the "audited accounts show all who have been here for a year are making money". Some bankers say the figures may be misleading as many banks use Bahrain as a booking centre, particularly for Far Eastern loans. Mr Moore rejects this saying "what they generate here".

No banks have yet withdrawn but the cost of maintaining a Bahrain office must be getting increasingly prohibitive for the smaller banks and some have cut their operations to a minimum. A Bahrain office is expensive. Bankers say there is no way to make a profit in the first two years of operation. An initial commitment of \$3m to \$4m is essential and running costs range from \$500,000 to \$1m.

Bankers usually hope to cover most of this cost with foreign exchange revenue. "The corporate lending does not then have to be abnormally large and it gains more and more momentum", one banker said.

If other business slumps, banks could easily lay more emphasis on investment banking. Bahrain introduced investment banking licences

in 1977 to fill a gap between the commercial and OBU licences. Those banks with investment licences have become increasingly active, advising on securities and property in the United States.

Mr Moore says that the financial assets of Middle East countries will expand as development slows and will need to find ways of investing them overseas. Bankers say it is logical for banks to be involved in this type of business. One says that "we have very steady commercial banks, the sharp end goes to the OBUs and we are now looking for greater sophistication".

While the offshore banks are having to reassess their positions, the commercial banks have settled into a pattern with a fairly steady increase in lending. After a poor year in 1978 when lending increased by only 8 per cent to 341m dinars (\$888m), it increased by 16.5 per cent last year to 397m dinars (\$1,036.9m). It was unreasonable to expect the boom year of 1976, when loans increased by 67 per cent, to continue and the BMA says that the growth of commercial banks will be at the same rate as that of the general economy.

Despite the limited number of construction projects (because of the flagging economy) and the cut in business for those banks specializing in trade finance, the commercial banks have produced healthy results. The National Bank of Bahrain, for example, made a record 3,680,000 dinars (\$9,700,000) profit last year, 25 per cent up on the previous year.

While Bahrain's banks could not expect to continue growing at the fast rate of the middle 1970s, there are signs that they could be facing more than just a temporary setback. If any banks did decide to leave, it would be a serious blow to the island's economy and its aim to set itself up as a services centre. Bankers are unwilling to predict what will happen but the political and economic uncertainties have made them less confident than they were a year ago.

Nigel Dudley

Middle East Economic Digest

Industry

Aluminium and ships vital

The words "Gulf cooperation" are never very far from the lips of Mr Youssef Shirawi, the Minister for Industry and Development. It is clearly crucial to a country like Bahrain, with a limited industrial base, that the duplication of industries in the Gulf does not cause them all to make unsustainable losses.

Some say that Mr Shirawi is naive and that Gulf states have been slow to put their intentions into action. They point to the lack of cooperation with Dubai, which has built a dry dock and aluminium smelter to compete with Bahrain's main industries.

However, the minister remains confident. He says that Bahrain's industrial base—Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY)—will help to confirm the island as a service centre. The companies are also important as earners of foreign currency, which is vital as oil revenue declines, and as providers of employment. Alba alone employs 4 per cent of the working population and the smaller ancillary industries from both Alba and ASRY provide a lot of work for locals. ASRY has service agreements with local companies, worth \$2.6m.

Bahrain is unlikely to have many more large industries. The Government hopes that closer links with Saudi Arabia, particularly after the causeway is built, will enable Bahrain to supply the big industrial projects in Saudi Arabia.

Recently Mr Shirawi's policies received a boost with Kuwait's decision to support a petrochemicals complex and iron ore palatization plant in Bahrain. In September it set up a \$300m petrochemicals complex—the Bahrain-Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company—which is to produce methane and ammonia at a plant in Bahrain.

The company will have BD140m (\$368.4m) capital, shared between the Bahrain National Oil Company (Banoco) and the Petrochemical Industries Company of Kuwait. The iron ore palatization plant, also to be built in Bahrain, would process imported iron ore, using Bahrain's non-associated natural gas.

A further example of

inter-state cooperation is Saudi Arabia's decision last July to take a 20 per cent stake in Alba, to be held by Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), the government-owned industrial investment company. This leaves the Bahrain Government with a 57.9 per cent holding—the rest of the company is owned by Kaiser Aluminium Bahrain (17 per cent) and Breton Investments of West Germany (5.1 per cent).

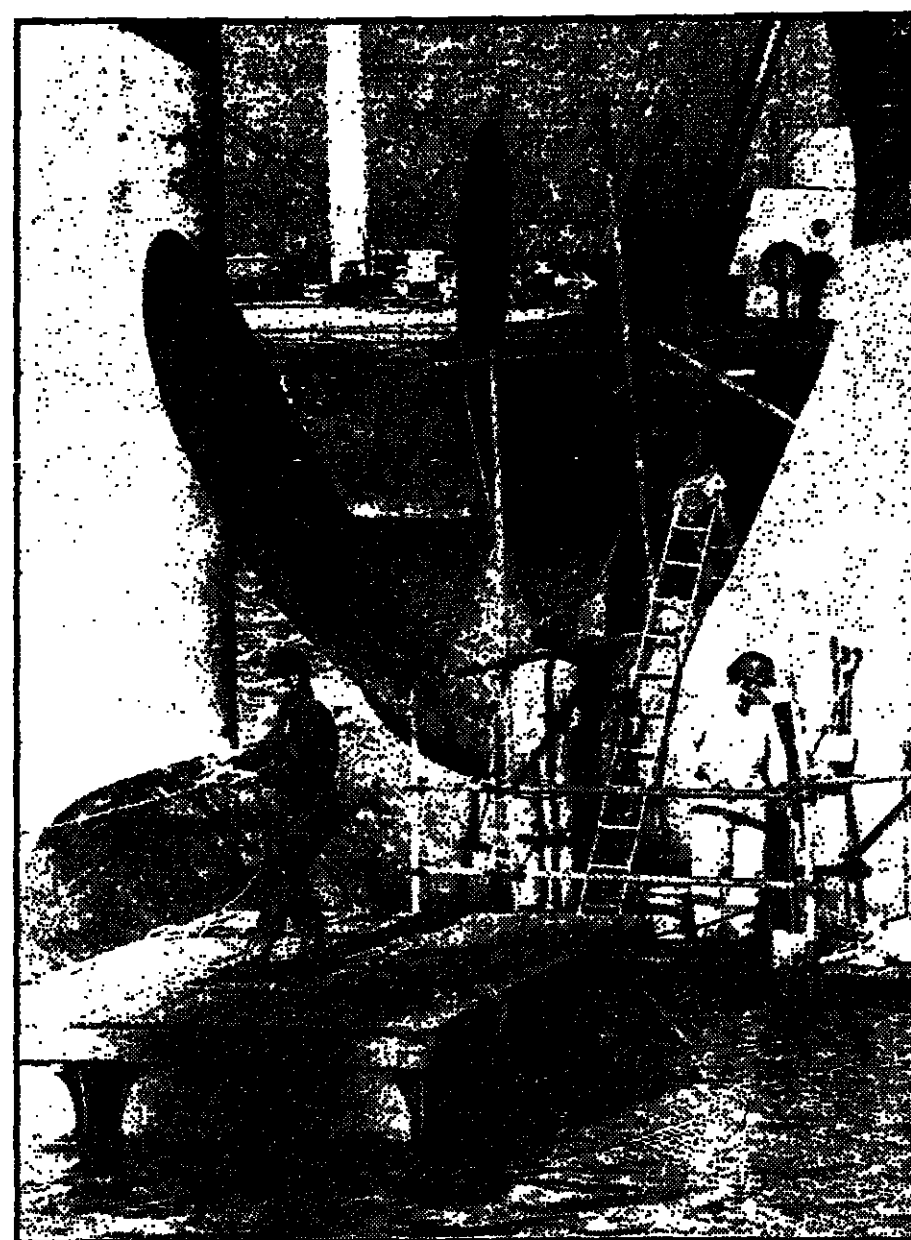
Saudi Arabia has also taken a 26 per cent holding in Bahrain Aluminium (Balco), which marks the Government's share of aluminium production. This is equivalent to 20 per cent of the Bahrain Government's holding in Alba. Mr Shirawi cites this as an example that his policies can work, but others are more cautious; they point out that Saudi Arabia still intends to build its own 250,000 tonne smelter at Jubail—Alba's present capacity is 120,000 tonnes. Mr Shirawi, though, is confident that the two plants will complement each other and that the Saudis will benefit from Bahrain's 10 years' experience in operating smelters.

Alba will also face competition from Dubai Aluminium (Dubal), which plans to start production in 1981 with a capacity of 135,000 tonnes. Alba is the most experienced company and will have the lowest production costs but observers are far from sure there will be enough demand to justify three smelters in the Gulf.

At present things are looking good for Alba. The 50 per cent rise in the spot price of aluminium came at the right time—until then, it was more than 50,000 tonnes of ingots stockpiled, its only alternative was to sell at uneconomic prices or continue increasing stocks. Now, the world energy shortage should ensure continued demand and high prices.

The improvement in Alba's fortunes has enabled it to go ahead with a BD 45m (\$117.1m) expansion plan, which will increase production by 45,000 tonnes to 165,000 tonnes. Increased production should have the added bonus of reducing costs by \$70 to \$80 a tonne.

Cheap gas from the Khuff field enables Alba to fuel its own power station fairly



The Ayab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard, full for 90 per cent of the time last year, can handle crude carriers up to 450,000 tons.

Balexco sells 20 per cent of its 4,000 tonne a year production locally and exports the rest to other Gulf states. But there are already too many extrusion plants in the Gulf and each state is anxious to protect its own industry. Saudi Arabia put a surcharge on imports of extrusions from Balexco, because Balexco was undercutting its own Aluminium Products Company (Alupco).

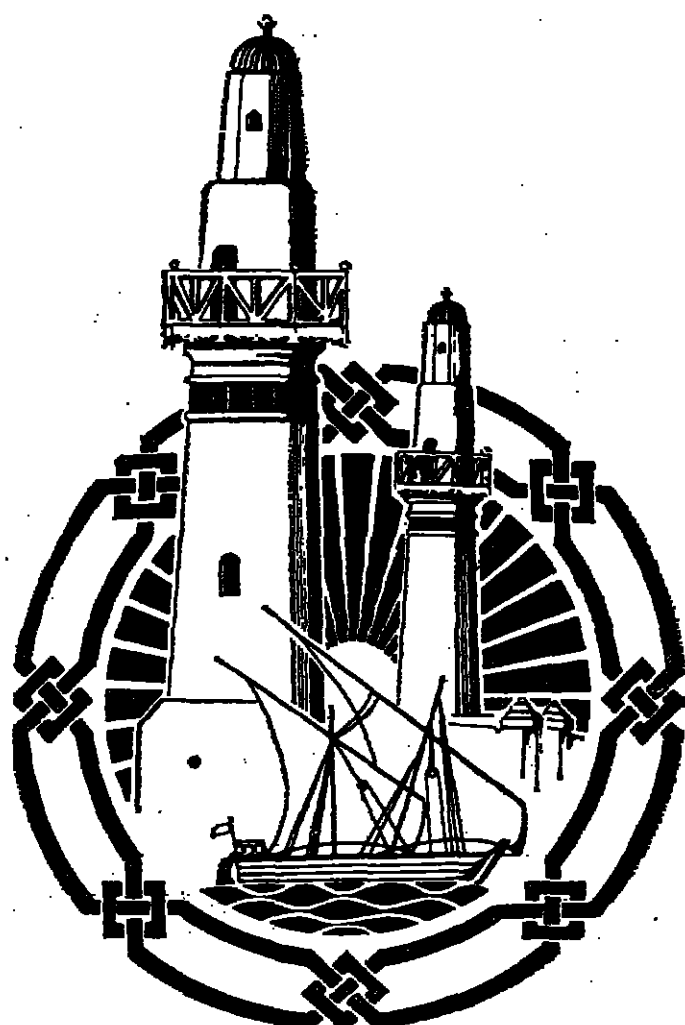
This illustrates the difficulties of getting states to cooperate. Unless the difficulties can be solved it is hard to see projects like the proposed \$500m rolling mill getting off the ground, as there is no demand for more than one such plant.

When Dubai's large three-barth ship repair yard gets a management team, there will be two yards in the Gulf and unless they find

some way of working together, they could both face unsustainable losses. Asry has an 18-month start on Dubai and the backing of its Opec shareholders, but its managers concede that cooperation is essential for both docks.

After an uncertain start, when it was hard to get ships to use the dock despite a 20 per cent discount, business has improved. The dock's manager—Lisnave of Portugal, which operates one of the largest tanker repair yards in Europe—says it has attracted international companies like Mobil and Exxon, as well as 39 Arab shipping lines. The dry dock, which can handle very large crude carriers (VLCCs) up to 450,000 tons was full for 90 per cent of the time last year.

N. D.



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BAHRAIN: FACTS AND FIGURES

For the traveller

How to get there

Bahrain's International Airport, on Al Muharraq island, is one of the best in the Gulf. A principal stopping point for wide-bodied jets travelling to the Far East, it was Concorde's first destination. There are usually several flights a day from London and near-daily flights from Paris and Amsterdam. Ongoing flights to Australia and the Far East are also frequent. Gulf Air, jointly owned with other Arab states, provides local services and also operates direct flights to Europe.

Travel documents

Visas are required by all visitors except nationals of Britain and of neighbouring Arab states. British citizens' passports should show either the place of birth or the normal place of residence as being within Britain. People holding onward or return tickets can obtain 72-hour temporary visas at the airport; these can be extended for a fee paid to the Department of Immigration. Those whose passports indicate that they have visited Israel are advised to check with their own national authorities before attempting to visit Bahrain. Non-Muslims are permitted to import limited quantities of wine and spirits.

Local travel and communications

Taxis are plentiful and can be recognized by their orange mudguards. Each driver carries a booklet listing the rates fixed by the Government. The capital, Al Manamah, is connected to oil-carrying areas by buses; they run regularly but often only at intervals of about an hour; since flat rates are used, they offer probably the cheapest way of travelling.

Cars can be hired on a daily or monthly basis, and trucks are also available for daily rental. Visitors are advised, however, to inspect

vehicles carefully before entering into an agreement. International driving licences are accepted, but they have to be endorsed by the Ministry of the Interior and local licences are required within a month.

Tips are expected by airport porters, and it is usual for hotels and restaurants to add 10 per cent or so to bills. Bus and drivers are not generally tipped. Telephone and international telecommunications are exceptionally good.

Language

Orthodox Arabic, similar to that used in Iraq and other Gulf states, is the official language. Many businessmen and government representatives speak English fluently, however, and the services of interpreters are available if needed. In the non-Arab communities, Persian and other South-east Asian languages are often spoken.

Currency

The Bahraini dinar (BD) was introduced in 1965 when the island ceased to use the Indian external rupee. The dinar is divided into 1,000 fils and is worth approximately 85p. Major hotels, restaurants, airlines and travel agencies accept both credit cards and travellers' cheques. Dollar bills are also acceptable.

Climate

December to March are the coolest months, although average high temperatures in this period range from 19deg C to 25deg C. Rainfall is minimal and largely confined to December-May, but humidity is high. From May to October the heat is intense. June is cooled by the Bara, blowing from the north. The Shamal, a moist wind from the north-west, or the Qaws, a hot, sand-carrying wind from the south, dominate the rest of the year.

Time differential

Greenwich Mean Time plus three hours.

Local customs and advice to visitors

Where business relations are concerned, Bahrainis place a high value on personal contacts. Western businessmen are advised not to rush into discussions of projects, and not to take offence if they discover their potential partner is considering other foreign offers. Bahraini businessmen often deal in a wide range of goods, and like their counterparts around the world they are concerned not only with price but with reliability in delivery dates and with guarantees of adequate after-sales service.

Bahrainis believe that one man is as good as another, whether he be pauper or rich man. They take a more relaxed view of foreigners than is the case in other Arab countries, and the country is one of the few in the Middle East where alcohol is freely available. It can be bought in retail shops without a permit, and prices for spirits are fairly low. Despite his tolerant outlook, the Bahraini is nevertheless better disposed to those visitors who respect his religion and demonstrate an understanding of Ramadan and the times of prayer.

It is not unusual for sheikhs to send invitations to functions taking place later in the day, and acknowledgment of these are not usually taken as parties, and young men and women are often chaperoned. The drinking of more than three cups of coffee is regarded as impolite, although servants will usually offer refills

until the cup is shaken from side to side by the guest. Plates are piled high at mealtimes, and if they are cleared the host will conclude that he has not served sufficient food; it is acceptable to leave part of the meal. The right hand only is used when eating with fingers or when offering food, cigarettes and the like to others. It is also quite usual for a guest to leave as soon as the meal is finished and he has washed his hands. Lavish expressions of gratitude when gifts are offered are frowned upon, although visitors are urged to be natural in their dealings with Bahrainis. Married Arab ladies are apt to ask personal questions of their European counterparts, and it is regarded as impolite to ask an Arab woman to dance without first asking permission of her husband or some other member of her family.

The Bahraini working week is from Saturday to Thursday morning, with the weekend break taken on Thursday afternoon and Friday. Usually, government offices are open from 7 am until 1 pm; banks from 7.30 am until midday (11 am on Thursdays); businesses from 7 am until midday and then from 2.30 to 5 pm; and shops from 8 am until noon and from 3.30 to 6.30 pm. Shops in the souks sometimes remain open on Friday mornings. One hour less is worked by all during the month of Ramadan.

Hours of business

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What to wear

In the four winter months from December to March medium-weight clothing is recommended, but for the rest of the year lightweight will suffice. Sunglasses are essential. Evening dress is worn only on formal occasions.

Embassies

Bahrain Embassy in London, 98 Gloucester Road, London SW7 4AU. Telephone 01-370 5132.

Ambassador: Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: Ali Ebrahim al-Mahroos.

Minister Plenipotentiary: Dr Wasfi Nimer.

Second secretaries: Ahmad Abbas, Ebrahim Al-Mannai and Hadeed S. Maki Hashim. Cultural attaché: Hassan Al-Montaradi.

British Embassy in Bahrain, Government Road North, Al Manamah. Telephone 254002.

Ambassador: Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary: Harold Berners Walker.

First secretary: L. E. Walker (Commercial).

Second secretaries: R. Caning (Consul) and C. E. J. Wilton.

British Council representative: G. E. P. Ness, PO box 542, Al Manamah.

General

The Emir

For nearly 200 years, Bahrain's rulers have been members of the al-Khalifa family. The first head of state was Shaikh Ahmad, who conquered the country in 1782. The present leader, Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, is the tenth member of the Arab dynasty to hold the emirate. Shaikh Isa came to power in 1961, on the death of his father, Shaikh Sulman bin Hamad. Although only 28 at the time, he had nearly 10 years' experience of helping to administer his country's affairs: on the Council of Regency, as President of the Al Manamah Municipal Council, and as a member of the Council of Administration. The heir apparent is Shaikh Hamed bin Isa al-Khalifa.

houses the fishing community and a number of small businesses. Sitra Island (three miles long and a mile wide) is largely industrial.

The country

Thirty-five islands, covering about 255 square miles, make up the state of Bahrain. The largest, known as Bahrain ("Two Seas"), is shaped like a sea horse and is about 30 miles long and eight to ten miles wide. Fifteen miles to the west is the coastline of Saudi Arabia. The island of Al Muharraq, to the north-east, is connected to Bahrain and its capital, Al Manamah, by a 11-mile causeway; Sitra Island, to the east, is similarly linked.

The land is low-lying, rocky and incapable of supporting much natural vegetation apart from desert plants. A green belt has been created, however, and there is a narrow strip of fertile land in the north. Gazelles and hares exist in the south, although their numbers have been decimated by hunters. Scorpions and the huge camel spider, both dangerous, live on the island but are seldom found in urban areas.

The flag

Red, with white serrated vertical bar next to the staff.

Main towns

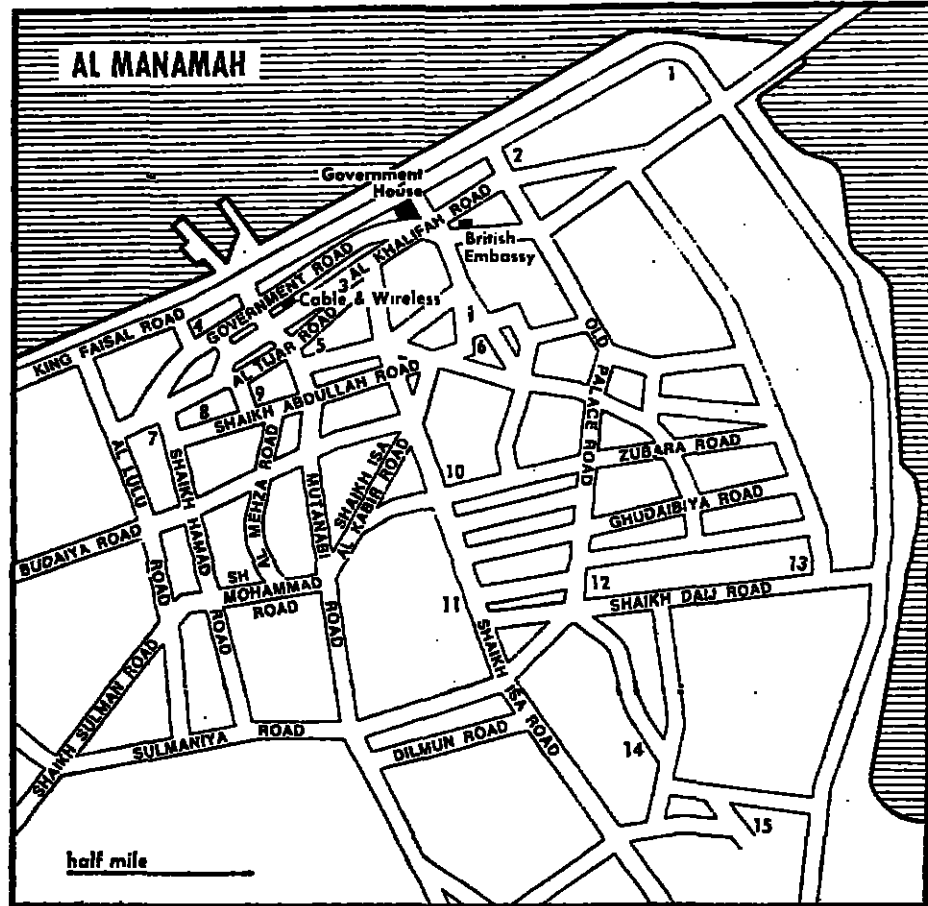
Al Manamah, the capital and commercial centre, is on Bahrain's north-east peninsula. To the south-east is Isa Town which has, with East and West Rifaa, served as a residential area for the capital. Awali, the oil town, is roughly in the centre of the main island. The international airport stands on Al Muharraq (four miles long and a mile wide), which

History

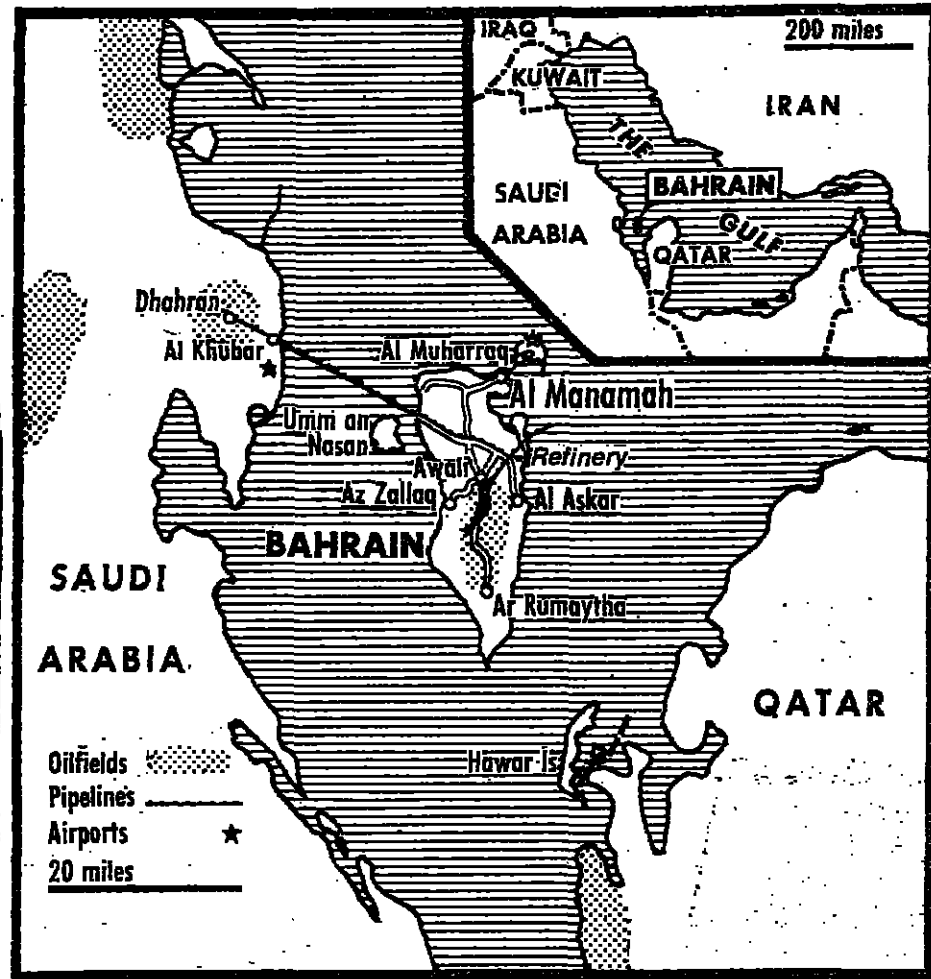
Because of its position, Bahrain has for centuries been an important trade centre and transit port. The island's changed hands constantly until the eighteenth century, when the Al-Khalifa became the ruling family. Interested in Bahrain's pearling industry, they clashed with the Persians and seized control. They were driven out by Oman at the end of the eighteenth century, but eventually—and this time with the help of the Persians—they consolidated their position on the island.

In the opening decades of the nineteenth century, strong links were forged with Britain. Anti-piracy and slavery treaties were signed by the two countries. In 1861 Shaikh Muhammad effectively passed the handling of foreign policy to Britain, and its position as the country's principal trading partner became assured for decades.

Bahrain's emergence as a modern state is traced back to Shaikh Hamed's succession in 1923. A progressive, the new emir helped to establish education and health services, and presided over the discovery and exploitation of the country's oil reserves. Bahrain replaced Aden as Britain's Middle Eastern military headquarters. In 1957, and independence became effective in 1971, when the United Kingdom withdrew its forces east of Suez.



Name	PO box	Telephone	Telex
Al Jazira	5898	59442	8999
Behran (8)	577	253478	8288
Bislat (11)	832	255989	8504
Capital (5)	133	255955	8296
Delma (4)	25	234000	8224
Gulf (15)	580	712831	8241
Hilka (2)	1070	250050	8288
Holiday Inn (1)	5831	253534	
Le Vendome	5353	277777	8888
Middle East (10)	298	254733	8296
Moon Plaza	847	8233	8305
Omar Khayyam (13)	771	713941	8401
Park (3)	273	253353	
Ramada (14)	5750	714821	8855
Royal (12)	154	714801	877
Sahara (9)	839	270850	8345
Speed Bird (6)	673	253558	8506
Tylos (7)	1086	252600	8349



Bahrain Encompassing the Economy of the Gulf

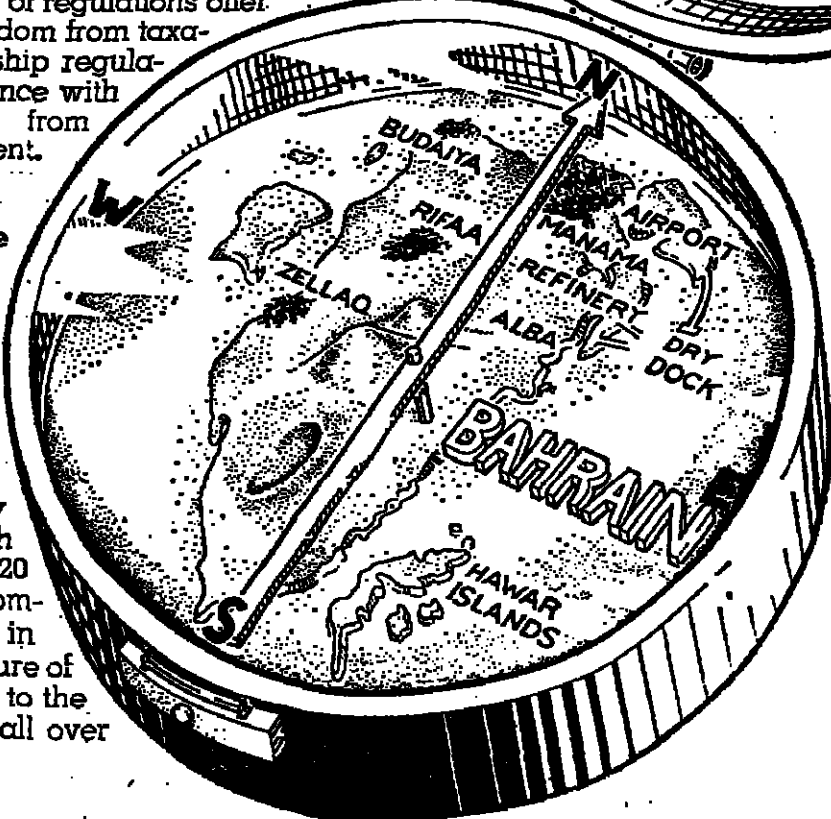
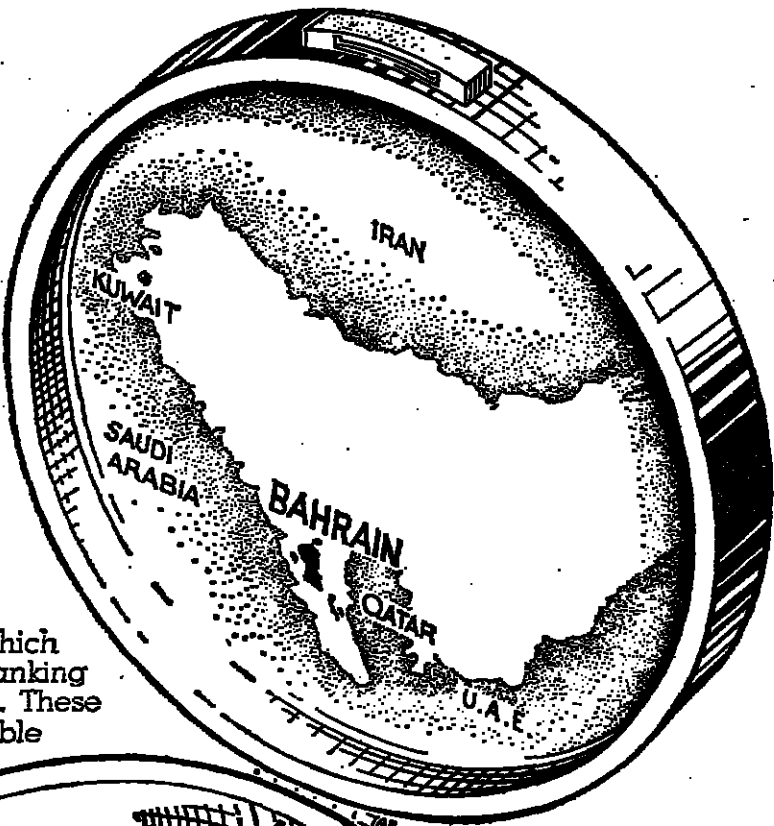
Bahrain's commercial and financial activities encompass the Gulf. Since the Dilmun civilisation of 3,000 B.C. the island nation has been a major trading base. Today, Bahrain continues the role.

New companies, setting up in Bahrain share the unique advantages of the country's excellent geographical position—sophisticated telecommunications systems—world-wide airline services—political stability—expatriate social amenities and well regulated commercial laws.

Now Bahrain offers two additional pieces of legislation which will encourage further companies. Investment Banking Licences and the Exempt, or Offshore, Companies Act. These moves demonstrate Bahrain's progressive and flexible attitude to commerce—both sets of regulations offer substantial advantages with freedom from taxation, freedom from local ownership regulations, and in some cases assistance with subsidised land and freedom from import duty on capital equipment.

Bahrain's Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture handles each licence application on an individual—rapid—basis.

Companies establishing offices in Bahrain will join a thriving community. An Offshore Banking Industry including over forty major international banks, with local assets in excess of U.S. \$20 billion, four hundred and fifty commercial companies engaged in activities diverse as the manufacture of mattresses or aluminium cabling to the repair of massive turbines from all over the Gulf.



For further details of these new "Offshore" licences, and more information about joint ventures or sponsorship for business in Bahrain, write to the Ministry of Information, Box 252, Bahrain.

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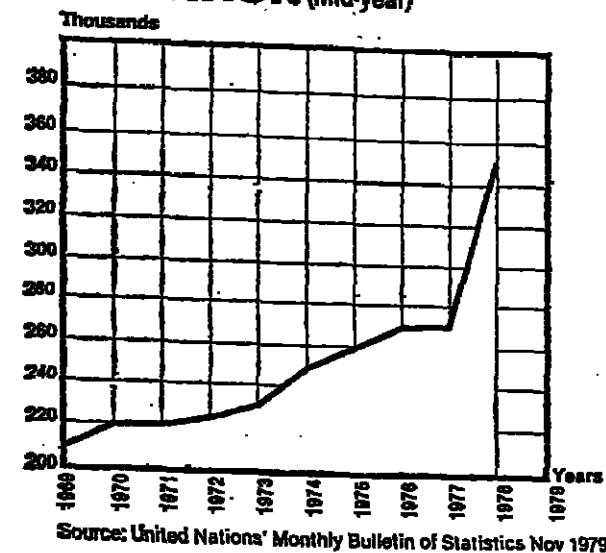
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مكنا من الوطن

POPULATION (Mid-year)



The people

Estimates suggest that by the middle of 1979 Bahrain's population had reached 350,000. Most of these are concentrated around the capital in the north. About 80 per cent are said to be of Arab ethnic origin and 12 per cent of Iranian. The remainder originate from other parts of the Arabian peninsula, from India and from Pakistan. Six to seven people in every 10 live in the larger cities, and most are young. The people are divided about evenly between the Sunni and Shia sects of the Muslim religion, although the Shia are possibly more numerous.

Shopping

Al-Khalifa Road and Government Road, with their adjacent suks, are the main shopping thoroughfares. Well-known department stores, selling almost anything, are Jashanmal's in Al-Khalifa Road and Asbrafa's, on Shaikh Isa Road. Most visitors, however, prefer the suks, with their narrow streets and small, open-fronted shops. One of the best known areas is the gold market in Al-Manamah Suk. Brass and copper objects are regarded as good buys, although most are made in Iran or India. Locally-made pottery is available but it is not notable for strength. There are often bargains to be had in jewelry, some of it containing Bahraini pearls.

Sport and leisure

Bahrain is one of the leading countries in the Gulf for organized sport. Its football and swimming teams regularly tour the region, as do its cricket and rugby clubs. The country's Sports Com-

mission encourages all schools to participate in athletics, swimming, shooting, fencing, show jumping and tennis. It is estimated that more than 70 per cent of the population is 20 years or younger.

Health and water supplies

Visitors are asked to produce an up-to-date international certificate of vaccination against smallpox, and must be immunized against yellow fever if arriving within six days from an infected area. Malaria is sometimes prevalent, and precautions should be taken. TAB is advisable. Free medical services exist for residents, and there are a score or so of hospitals. Tap water is not regarded as being safe to drink. Bottled water is available, but many residents buy purified "sweet" water from local water sellers. This is kept in special buckets and is cheaper than the bottled variety. Bahrain has its own desalination plant.

Public holidays

Islamic holidays depend on the Muslim lunar calendar and consequently may differ by one or two days from the dates given. Businessmen are advised to stay away during the month of Ramadan, which ends with the three-day holiday of Id al-Fitr. The Muslim year has only 354 or 355 days and consequently holidays fall 10 to 11 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar.

1980	1979	1978	1977
Prophet's birthday	Jan 29	Jan 29	Jan 29
Id al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	Aug 12-14	Oct 19-21	Oct 19-21
Id al-Adha	Nov 8	Nov 8	Nov 8
Al-Hijra (new year)	Nov 17	Nov 17	Nov 17
Asbura	Nov 17	Nov 17	Nov 17
National Day	Dec 16	Dec 16	Dec 16

Industry and politics

The Government

The state of Bahrain is run by a Cabinet, many of whose members are related to the Emir. The Prime Minister is Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, and al-Khalifa is also responsible for defence, development and industry, education, foreign affairs, housing, the interior, justice and Islamic affairs, and labour and social affairs. Under the constitution all citizens are regarded as equal before the law. Freedom of speech, expression and assembly is guaranteed, although public gatherings and processions are not permitted if they are considered to be a danger to peace or security.

In January, 1970, the Emir delegated executive authority to a council of ministers but retained sovereign power. Until August, 1975, the country had a national assembly with legislative authority; this consisted of 30 members elected by male suffrage and 12 ministers. But there was dissent between the elected members and the Government and the body was dissolved. A number of old merchant families have considerable political influence.

The country is broken into five rural areas administered by municipalities reporting to a central municipal council. The first municipality, Al-Manamah, was established in 1919 and is by far the oldest in the region.

Trade

Britain has traditionally been Bahrain's chief supplier, holding something like 19 to

Gross domestic product (millions of Bahraini dinars)

1975	1976	1977
364,100	538,000	655,800

Government departments: capital spending (Bdm)

Ministry	1977	1978	1979	1980
Works, electricity & water	57.8	61.9	68.9	21.7
Housing	42.3	36.7	10.6	10.6
Health	8.5	4.5	0.7	2.9
Education	4.5	6.2	0.3	3.1
Youth & sport	3.6	0.5	1.2	1.2
Interior	1.8	4.2	1.2	1.1
Finance & national economy	13.1	18.2	6.4	0.1
Commerce & agriculture	1.3	2.4	0.9	1.0
Defence	1.4	3.6	2.1	1.1
Transport	0.1	0.2	—	1.0
Development & industry	0.9	1.2	—	1.4
Information	1.0	2.1	2.0	1.0
Others	2.2	3.3	8.7	0.6
Total	138.5	145.0	95.0	35.0

*I=current projects, II=new projects. Figures for 1980 are derived from World Bank estimates made in February, 1978, in current price terms.

20 per cent of the market. The country was ousted from first place by the United States in 1974, but this was because of the import of an unusually large number of single heavy items for new industrial projects. Other important industrial trading partners are West Germany and Japan, with Taiwan steadily gaining ground. Bahrain's main supplier of food—especially frozen meat—is Australia. West Germany and Italy send in up-market textiles and furniture, while Taiwan has won a large share of the market for cheap textiles and crockery. The Koreans have also been active recently, winning multi-million dollar contracts. Japan is Bahrain's principal buyer for aluminium, taking about three quarters of its total output in 1977.

Trade with neighbouring states is also increasing. Saudi Arabia, in particular, imports Bahraini goods.

Principal ministers

Prime Minister: Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman al-Khalifa	Information: Tariq Abdulrahman al-Mozayyed
Commerce and Agriculture: Habib Ahmad Kasim	Interior: Shaikh Mohammad bin Khalifa al-Khalifa
Defence: Shaikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa	Justice and Islamic Affairs: Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid al-Khalifa
Development and Industry: Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi	Labour and Social Affairs: Shaikh Isa bin Mohammad al-Khalifa
Education: Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammad al-Khalifa	Transportation and Communications: Ibrahim Humaidan
Finance and National Economy: Ibrahim Mohammad Abdulkarim	Works, Power and Water: Majid Jawad al-Shirawi
Foreign Affairs: Shaikh Mohammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa	Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs: Jawad Salim al-Urayay
Health: Dr Ali Fakhr	Minister of State for Legal Affairs: Dr Hussain Mohammad al-Saharna
Housing: Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah al-Khalifa	

International trade (Bdm)

Non-oil imports by main countries of origin	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Britain	25.7	42.8	68.4	87.0	90.2
Japan	14.8	18.4	17.6	19.6	19.9
United States	23.2	27.4	53.7	68.9	65.3
West Germany	31.7	38.3	57.4	53.3	53.7
Australia	18.1	15.6	14.8	12.0	11.8
France	8.3	11.5	24.8	26.2	36.8
Italy	4.7	5.0	6.4	5.9	18.1
Others	10.1	12.9	20.3	25.0	26.0
Total	175.9	232.9	387.6	444.9	453.9

Source: Bahrain Government. Figures have been rounded to millions. Figures in parentheses are percentages.

The economy and the budget

Oil is the fuel that drives the economy of Bahrain—a small archipelago of low-lying islands about halfway down The Gulf and some 15 miles off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. Long before the birth of Christ, the country was famous for its pearls; these are still gathered today. But petroleum and gas are now the natural resources with real significance.

Bahrain was the first of

the Gulf states to discover oil and the first to exploit it. Inevitably, perhaps, it is likely to become the region's first post-oil state, since the reserves are expected to be exhausted by the end of the century. Earlier this month the Government announced that the expected daily output of oil this year is 47,500 barrels, compared with 51,350 barrels in 1979.

The pattern of gradual decline in the state's main source of home-based revenue is offset by rising output from the Abu Safa field,

from which income is shared equally with Saudi Arabia, and by rising world prices for oil. These two factors mean that Bahrainis are looking forward to oil revenue providing nearly 70 per cent of the country's total income in the financial year 1980-81, compared with just under 60 per cent in 1979-80.

The recently announced budget makes it clear that spending will run at record levels in all sectors and that general living standards will be further improved.

Nearly BD80m will be spent on power generation, transmission, and distribution, and some BD60m has been earmarked for 4,600 new homes—roughly 10 per cent of Bahrain's existing housing stock. About BD12m will be used to improve water supplies, BD17m for education and BD8.5m for health facilities. Huge construction and improvement projects are planned to ease bottlenecks created by the 60,000 vehicles on the country's overcrowded roads. Total expenditure is put at BD300m.

Acutely conscious of the steady dwindling of their internally-generated oil supplies, Bahrainis have been carefully developing their industrial base. In addition to refining oil, they now process aluminium, have impressive ship repair facilities, a growing reputation as a banking centre, and a highly-developed transport network.

Non-oil imports by commodity

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Machinery, transport equipment	52.5	86.0	155.8	161.1	171.4
Manufactured goods*	48.1	57.0	96.2	106.2	101.7
Other manufactured articles	23.5	33.0	49.6	76.3	61.8
Food, live animals	24.8	24.5	39.4	42.9	51.2
Chemicals	14.8	18.5	21.5	30.9	39.0
Beverages, tobacco	4.6	6.0	8.6	10.2	10.9
Others	7.6	7.9	18.7	17.3	17.3
Total	176.0	232.9	387.6	444.9	453.9

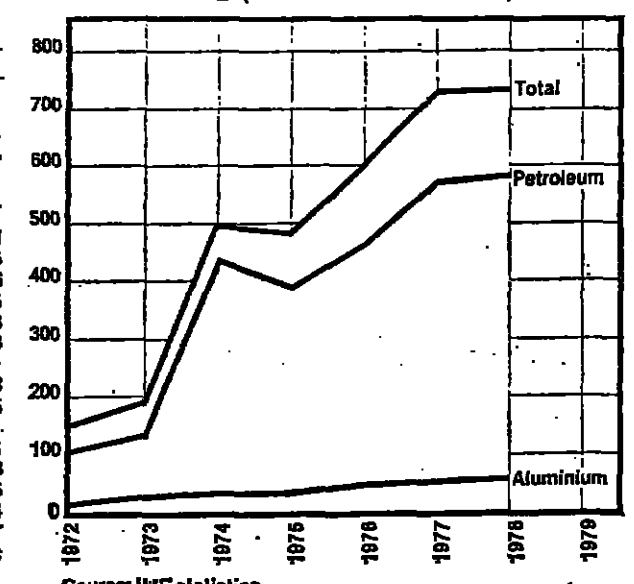
* Classified by material, and including alumina. British Government source.

Balance of payments, Bahrain (Bdm)

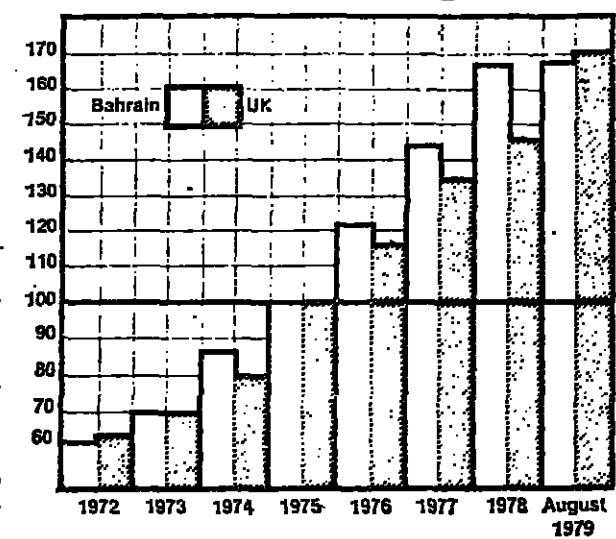
	1976	1977	1978
Visible trade	483.2	572.5	585.5
Oil exports	272.2	357.8	338.9
Oil imports	+191.0	+214.7	+246.6
1. Net oil transactions	136.6	157.6	147.6
Non-oil exports	387.7	445.0	453.4
2. Net non-oil transactions	-251.1	-287.4	-305.9
1+2 (visible trade balance)	-60.1	-72.7	-59.2
3. Services, transfers and non-monetary capital (net)	+90.1	+79.8	+122.5
Comprising:—			
Investment income	+11.3	+12.0	+15.2
Travel	+11.0	+12.0	+12.0
Workers' remittances	-100.0	-120.0	-150.0
Official transfers	+0.5	+39.9	+36.4
Official loans (net)	+10.4	+2.2	+14.2
Direct investment	+55.0	+50.0	+35.0
Others, including errors, omissions	-101.9	+83.7	+159.7
1+2+3 (overall balance)	+39.0	+7.1	+63.3

Estimates based on International Monetary Fund figures.

EXPORTS (Millions Bahraini Dinars)



CONSUMER PRICES



Main British exports to Bahrain (£m)

	1976	1977	1978	1979*
Power generation machinery & equipment (71)	4.5	5.4	5.9	23.8
Transport equipment* (79)†	9.7	15.0	19.6	19.0
Chemicals, etc (section 5)	6.1	11.4	12.3	10.0
Metal manufacturers not elsewhere specified (69)	4.9	9.8	12.1	6.5
Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances (77)	5.0	9.2	8.8	6.4
General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	na	7.6	7.3	5.9
Food & live animals (section 1)	3.3	4.2	5.3	3.5
Specialized machinery (72)	na	7.1	4.7	3.3
Furniture (82)	2.4	3.4	4.1	2.6
Others	50.6	40.8	39.6	35.9
Total	89.5	113.9	119.9	116.9

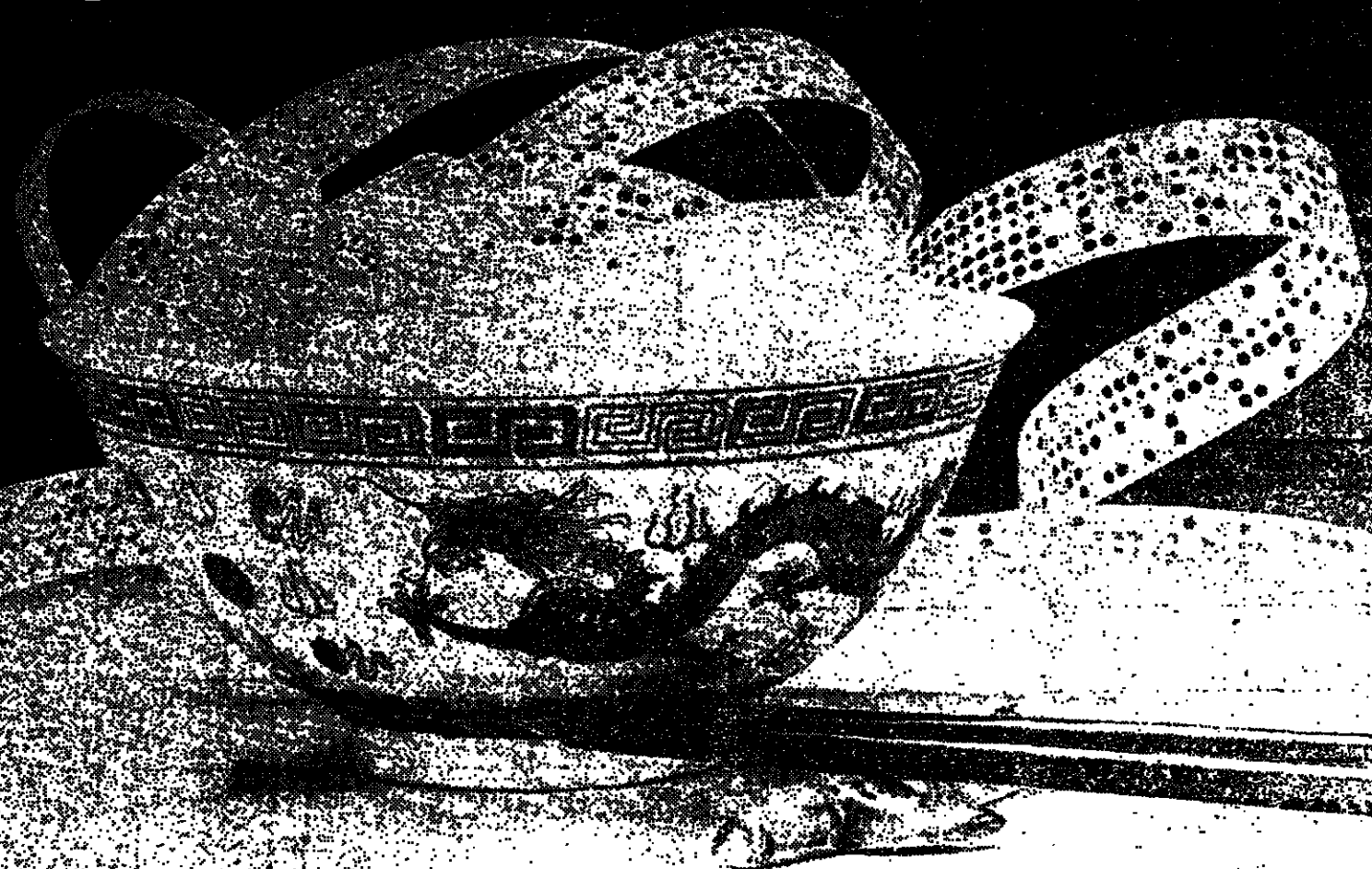
* Other than road vehicles.
† Figures in parentheses refer to standard international trade classification divisions and sections.
‡ January to November inclusive.
Figures in table have been rounded to millions.
Source: Department of Trade.

British trade balance with Bahrain (£m)

	1976	1977	1978	1979*
British exports to Bahrain	89.5	113.9	119.9	116.9
British imports from Bahrain	30.1	13.7	34.7	20.1
Balance	+59.5	+100.1	+85.2	+96.8

* January to November inclusive.
Source: British overseas trade statistics.

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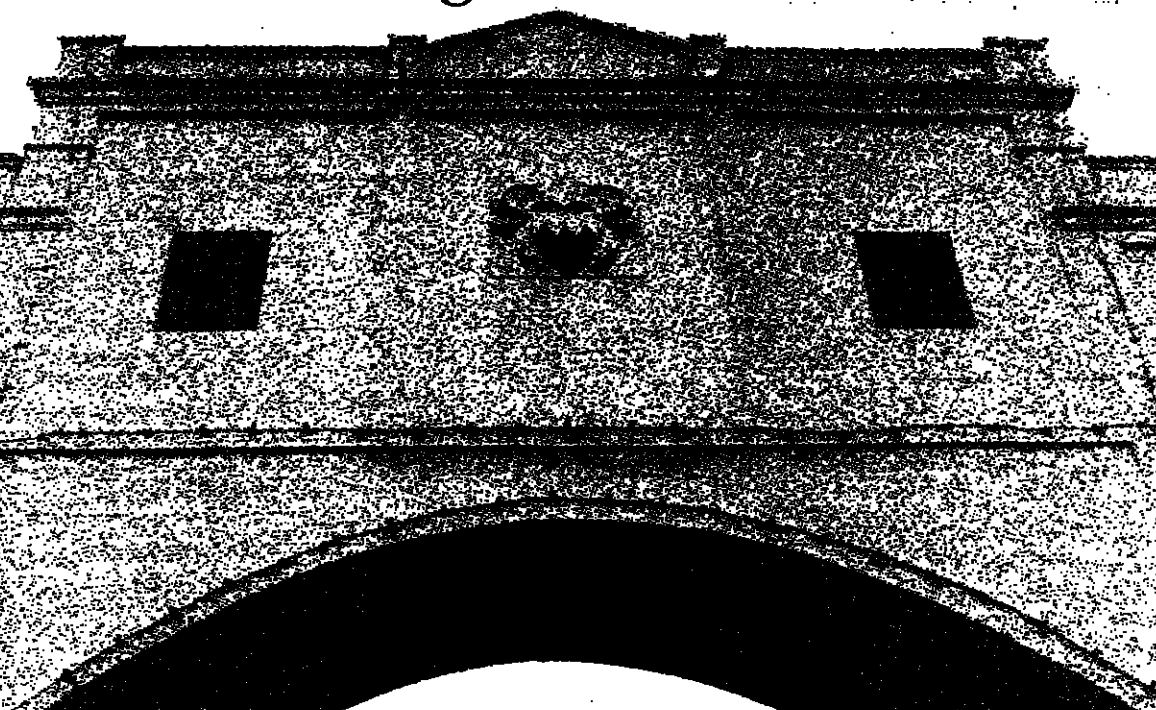
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Tokyo Representative Office: Room No. 427, Fuji Building, 3-2-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 1, Japan—Telephone: 2146058, Telex: 2226287.

BAHRAIN

Property

Band strikes up after gloom

The deep depression which settled over the property market after 1976-77, the years when, as one banker put it, "the band's playing and everybody's dancing", is lifting slowly.

Mr Ibrahim Abdul Karim, Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy, confidently predicts another boom in the 1980s. In a newspaper interview, he pointed out that not only the completion of the causeway, but other huge expenditures such as those for the Alba extension (\$150m), the joint petrochemical project with Kuwait (\$350m), and the aluminium rolling mill (\$120m), not to mention the spin-off from the new Gulf University, would have a colossal impact on the economy.

Mr Karim added that he did not foresee the unbridled speculation and overgrowth of liquidity of the earlier boom. He said that planning would help to maintain the economic balance.

Estate agents are more cheerful, although not yet exactly rubbing their hands. Many hundreds of expensive flats and houses and whole floors of office blocks in the capital Al Manamah remain empty, but slowly the market is moving again and there are signs of gathering momentum.

The boom of 1976 was largely set off by the decision in October, 1975, to create an offshore banking centre—a calculated risk. There was a frantic scramble by banks of world-wide reputation for premises for which they were prepared to pay almost any price. There are now more than 50 offshore banks, and all have wanted not only suitable offices but appropriate accommodation for their staffs.

With Bahrain's growth as a financial centre, commercial activities of all kinds have prospered and a subsequent decision to offer facilities to offshore companies is an important means by which the over-confident speculators of 1976 now hope eventually to recoup their investments.

Bahrain is still, however, very much a buyer's market. Not only have rents dropped, but tenants can now negotiate for shorter leases than in the recent past, and can expect a rent-free period for fitting out.

During the past two years companies have been able to take advantage of the lower rents to take better accommodation than they had before, although some banks which took long leases in 1975-76 because of the shortage of premises have yet to move to better offices. Banks which have been able to move include Grindlays, Barclays, Lloyds, American Express Bank of America, Citibank and BNL.

The highest rent now being paid is believed to be the BD 8 a square metre charged by the centrally air-conditioned Unitag House which fronts Bahrain's "little Wall Street", the heart of banking. This charge is holding up, but rents in other blocks of offices and flats have dropped. In the Al Manamah Centre, which adjoins Government House, all purpose-built offices have been let with the rent lowered from BD 7 to BD 6. Leases can be negotiated for two to three years.

In the imposing 16-storey Bahrain Tower, rents have dropped from BD 7 to BD 5 a square metre, for a total office space of 9,000 square metres. The building, which for a long time remained embarrassingly empty, now has 80 per cent occupancy, with the Bank of America and Paribas as prime tenants. The new Chamber of Commerce Building is letting offices for BD 5 a square metre and has as

tenants Credit Suisse, the Australian Consulate General, and Bahrain-Kuwait and Al Ahli insurance companies. Apartments in the building, used as small offices, cost BD 4.5 a square metre, including central air-conditioning.

The 350-room Sheraton Hotel, opening this spring, has introduced what may be a profitable innovation in lean times for the hotel industry by adding to the premises about 5,580 square metres of space for shops. A new feature on the Bahrain skyline, which the traveller crossing the causeway to the capital from the international airport cannot fail to notice on his right, is the group of tall buildings which have sprouted from a broad apron of land reclaimed, at government expense, from the shallow sea. This is known as the "diplomatic quarter" and already contains the Bahrain Ministry of Finance, other government offices, the Hilton Hotel, the Holiday Inn, the unfinished Diplomat Hotel, and several blocks of offices and flats. Here, office space is being let at BD 6 a square metre, for the least and flats with three bedrooms in the Hawar Building, are being taken at BD 370 a month for 120 square metres of space.

The area is still developing, and important buildings about to be started are a headquarters for Gulf International Bank, which will have 9,000 square metres of office room and will be just north of the Hilton Hotel, and a block of offices and flats which has been commissioned by the Kuwait Real Estate Investment Consortium.

Over-building of homes has resulted in rents for three-bedroom villas within the capital BD500 a month over the past two years. Farther out, in the suburbs, rent reductions have in some cases been dramatic. Some villas, with gardens and swimming pools, for which BD2,000 a month was being paid in 1976, can now be had for BD1,000 to BD1,200. Other smaller houses, in private developments, can be had at BD250 instead of the BD750 of two years ago. Still farther away, dozens of houses in new developments have found few tenants.

The Government, during the reign of the present Emir, Shaikh Isa, has provided cheap modern housing for less wealthy Bahrainis, especially for those huddled in the cluttered, insanitary slums of the two main towns Al Manamah and Al Muharraq.

In 1963, only two years after Shaikh Isa's accession, plans were laid to create a model garden city, with all amenities, five miles south of the capital. The first stage of the town, known as Isa Town, was opened in 1968 and provided houses, on the east of town, for 15,000 Bahrainis. Isa Town is still expanding and by 1981 will have reached its projected size of homes for 35,000.

This is only part of the Government's effort to create a model garden city. The Ministry of Housing, established in 1975, launched its first three-year plan in 1976. This has resulted in the financing of 4,000 houses, 2,000 loans for building, and more than 3,500 land plots at a total cost of BD120m. The second three-year plan—1979-81—will be similar in size, with the Government committing BD75m and a new housing bank providing additional funds.

The most spectacular housing scheme of all is to be started in 1982 when another new town, as yet unnamed, is likely to be created in the west of the island. It will eventually have 75,000 inhabitants.

Ralph Izzard



New buildings rise in Al Manamah as the property depression slowly lifts.

Communications

Progress keeps Kuwait challenge at bay

Bahrain established itself as an entrepot in a modest way in the days when pearls and fish were its chief industries, and it was even then a place known to shipping in the Gulf. Today, when this area is widely regarded as a kind of commercial el dorado as well as a focal point of international tensions, Bahrain has grasped firmly its potential as the most convenient communications centre for the region.

It is not unchallenged in this respect. Kuwait is moving fast to present itself as an alternative centre. Each country has its own special facilities, but Bahrain with a long tradition of adapting to changing needs is still a first choice for many business operations. Air transport for passengers, port facilities for goods, telecommunications for instant contact with all parts of the world have been developed with remarkable speed and much efficiency, and the process is continuing.

Without its excellent telecommunications services Bahrain would not have been able to establish itself as the offshore banking centre of the Gulf. Its Ras Abu Jarjur earth satellite station, opened in 1969, was

the first in the Middle East.

Bahrain Telephones and Bahrain International Communications are subsidiaries of Cable and Wireless of the United Kingdom. Direct dialling to Britain started in 1977, followed by direct dialling services to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iran and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Further direct services covering almost the whole of Western Europe and the United States have now been added. More than 600,000 international calls are made annually.

Locally, demand exceeds supply and there is still a long waiting list for telephone subscribers, but Bahrain has one of the most advanced computer-controlled digital switching telephones in the world. It came into operation on January 3, 1980.

Bahrain's airport on the adjacent island of Al Muharraq is linked with the capital, Al Manamah, by causeway and is 10 minutes' drive from the centre of the city. It is spacious, well equipped for passenger comfort—at least by Middle East standards—and can receive all types of commercial aircraft now being flown on world routes.

British Airways' Concorde flies between London and Bahrain three times weekly in each direction and is a status symbol not only for the airline but for Bahrain's world connections. Ask a Bahraini if there have ever been complaints about Concorde's noise and you are answered by a puzzled smile of amazement. This aircraft is one of Bahrain's most welcome expatriates.

Between 20 and 30 airlines fly in and out of Bahrain, including many of the other big names such as Pan Am, TWA, KLM and Qantas, but more than half of all flights are by the national flag carrier, Gulf Air.

More than a quarter of a century ago this airline started life as Gulf Aviation. In 1974 it was transformed into an international carrier and the joint national airline of four separate Gulf states: Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman.

Bahrain is the line's headquarters, and from there it flies scheduled services to more than 20 destinations as varied as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Hongkong,

continued on facing page

Causeway

Bridging the gap brought nearer

In early December the 21 consortia invited to prepare bids for the \$1,000m causeway to Saudi Arabia and these have been whittled down to the 21 consortia.

The bidders include two British-led consortia, two French, five West German, three Dutch and one each from Italy, Spain, Japan, Greece and Taiwan. One of the most favoured comprises the American firms Brown & Root and Raymond International with Archirodon, of Greece.

Another thought to have a good chance is the British group of Redpath Dorman Long with Costain and Taylor Woodrow, Hyundai, of South Korea, originally thought to be one of the strongest contenders, has been dropped from the list because it has been banned by Saudi Arabia from bidding for government work.

The successful bidder is unlikely to finish work on the causeway until the mid-1980s. The specifications for the 25km structure, which combines four bridges and embankments, were prepared by the Danish architects, Christiani & Nielsen, a partner in Saudi-Danish consultants. The companies bidding have been allowed to present alternative plans.

The causeway will run from Jazira in north-west Bahrain, through Umm Naman island, where Bahrain will have its customs posts, to Al Aziziyah, 10 km south of Al Khobar. Four lanes of traffic will be carried on the road, which will be 24 metres wide. Four bridges, 12 km long in total, will alternate with sections of embankment. The bridges will allow the tide to pass, preventing a large area of seabed from being rapidly covered by water because of evaporation. The main bridge will have a 120 metre span and a 28.5 metre clearance, which is large enough to let ships through, and the three others will have a 15.5 metre clearance.

One of the main problems facing the contractor will be the varied type of seabed—a recent geological survey showed that the seabed consists of layers of sand, shells, silt, siltstone and hard limestone. The foundations will have to be of steel pipes driven 16 metres into the seabed and concrete in concrete to prevent corrosion.

Saudi Arabia's willingness to finance the project

reflects its concern about political developments in the region. The rioting in Bahrain in August by Shi'as who make up about 55 per cent of the population but have very little say in government, was a salutary warning of what could happen to Bahrain if it was not given some reassurance.

At present there is no real threat to the Government. The royal family is flexible and takes care to keep its finger on the political pulse; Bahrainis have tried to avoid any friction between the Sunni and Shia populations, though this has been easy since Iran revived its claims on Bahrain. Some Cabinet posts go to Shi'as though most of the important ones are held by Sunnis.

The Bahrain Government is convinced that the causeway will guarantee its prosperity at a time when its major source of revenue, oil production, is being run down by about 6 per cent a year. It hopes that the business opportunities given by access to a large market will reinforce the BD13m (\$35,140,000) aid—equivalent to 2.5 per cent of its revenue—it already receives from Saudi Arabia.

Local contractors hope they can benefit from supply and construction contracts, particularly if the headquarters of the operation is based in Bahrain. A new town will have to be built for the vast workforce; the influx should give a boost to the whole economy, filling hotels and restaurants and generating business for four or five years.

Businessmen are optimistic that easier access to Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province will open up a whole new market. There are already close links—25 flights a day to Doha and numerous trips by motorized dhow—but merchants say the causeway will reinforce the close relationship between the two countries.

Mina Sulman port will benefit from extra business, with particularly heavy traffic while the causeway is being built. Long-term regular business could come from container traffic to the Eastern Province; the Government has already prepared plans for a road linking Al Manamah and Mina Sulman.

Nigel Dudley

A sense of purpose...

Bahrain is one of the fastest growing economies in the Gulf region, moving steadily into ever greater self-sufficiency and diversification.

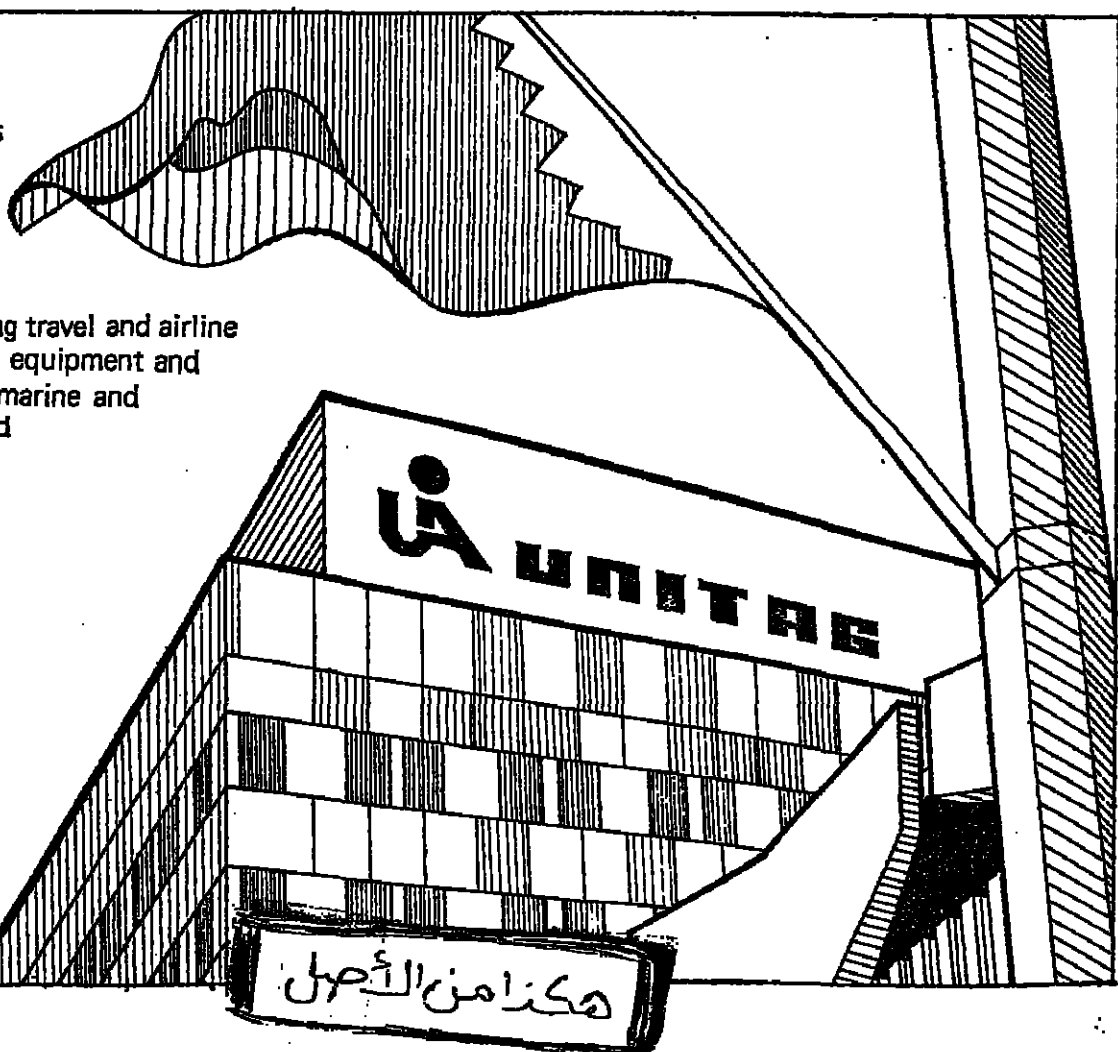
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Agriculture

Dairy farming develops as date palm becomes rarer

If you draw a line across the middle of Bahrain, which is almost exactly the size of the Isle of Wight, you can safely say that everything that matters in Bahrain lies north of that line. The southern half of the island is total desert and uninhabited—the domain of a few gazelle and a game reserve. Natural sources of fresh water in the northern half of the island have enabled man to cultivate the land as far back as legendary times.

The climate is well-suited to the cultivation of the date palm which will tolerate a certain degree of brackishness in water, so that much of the cultivation consists of date gardens. However, the date palm has become rarer in Bahrain in recent years. It has been subjected to the pressures of an increasing urban population with rising living standards, transplanted into the northern half of the island, combined with increasing salinity of the irrigation water to a point not tolerable to the date palm.

The giant skeletons of hundreds of date palms provide the evidence of this, but not all have succumbed to excessive salinity in the irrigation water. In order to control the progressive erosion of its green belt by urban construction, the Government has placed restric-

tions on the felling of date palms with the result that date palms on potentially valuable building land have suffered a greatly increased mortality rate. The difficulty for Bahrain therefore is not so much a question of creating cultivated land as of preserving it.

As in most other areas of human activity, Bahrain was well ahead of all the other Gulf states in the development of agriculture. In 1930 the Government Farm and Experimental Station was established at Budaiya on the north-west corner of the island. This has now expanded to 90 acres spread over different parts of the island. Originally it was limited to the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, but now includes dairy farming and poultry. This in turn has led to experimentation in the growth of fodder.

Considerable improvements have been made in irrigation methods in recent years. Conservation of water and the reduction of salinity of the soil have been achieved by the increasing use of drip-feed irrigation. Hydroponic farming is another feature of experimentation at Budaiya. This is practised elsewhere in the Gulf area, and is much favoured for the intensive cultivation and production of vegetables.

Dairy farming has been

developed considerably in Bahrain in recent years. The local cattle are small and have been cross-bred with imported cattle to improve the milk yield. Now about 600 litres are produced daily at the Bin Hindi experimental farm on Al Muharraq Island. This 15-acre farm houses nearly 200 dairy cows, about half of which are producing milk daily. The milk is collected, pasteurized, packaged and distributed to seven cold-store outlets by the Danish Bahrain dairies.

Admirable as this achievement may be, it would require an output at least 10 times as great as the present one to meet the needs of the local population. A limiting factor is the supply of fodder, which presents considerable difficulties. The Ministry of Agriculture is planning to grow more land with the right type of grass, but it is an expensive and complicated process.

The government experimental station has sponsored the poultry farm at Hamala on Bahrain Island, which produces 21 million eggs a year. There are also 16 privately-owned poultry farms which produce nine million eggs a year. A new farm was scheduled for completion recently, and it is hoped that by the end of 1980 Bahrain will be self-

sufficient in producing its needs of 60 million to 70 million eggs a year. At present it is producing about 80 per cent of its needs. About 40 per cent of its requirements of broiler chickens are produced locally.

In spite of these achievements Bahrain still has to import a large proportion of its food requirements, and there is a need for the Government to increase its investment in agriculture. The land tenure system, whereby more than 60 per cent of the land is leased from landlords for three-year periods, a system which provides no stability, does not lend itself to the improvement of agricultural efficiency. Hunting Technical Services, a United Kingdom firm, has produced a 10-year plan for agriculture.

The history of the fishing industry in Bahrain presents a sorry saga. Originally the wealth of Bahrain, such as it was, derived from pearling and ship-building. The former was all but killed by the development of the Japanese cultured pearl industry, and is today on a much reduced scale.

Fish and prawns were caught in fish traps built out into the shallow waters of The Gulf. These will be seen from the air today as aircraft come in to land at Al Muharraq airport. In recent years a profitable

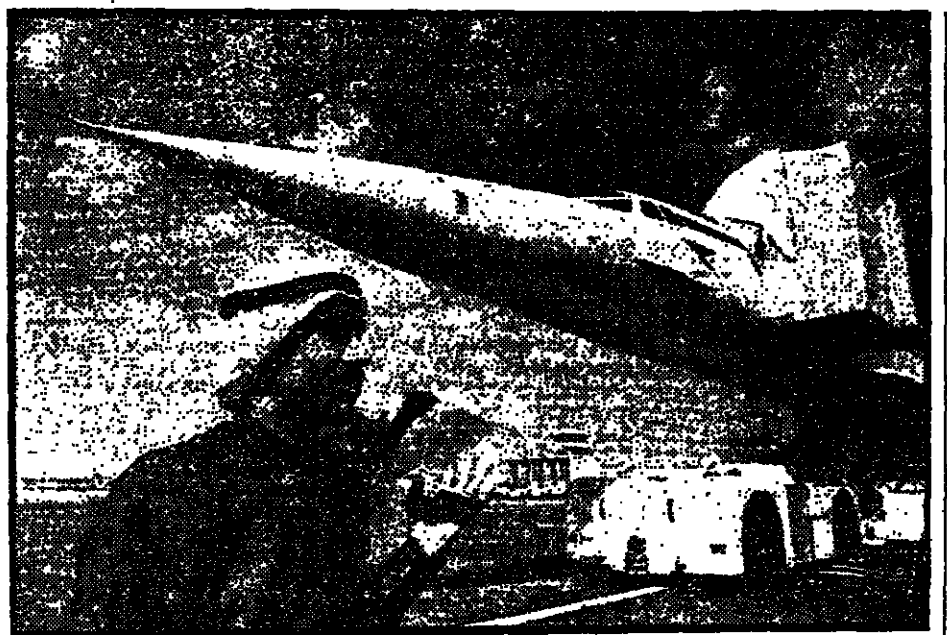
prawning business was built up with the British Ross Foods group by means of a fleet of some 17 shrimp trawlers, which caught and froze the prawns before processing them ashore. The frozen prawns found a ready market in the United States and Japan.

In spite of a closed season of two months annually to allow for breeding, during the past two to three years the catches have fallen off disastrously to such an extent that in 1979 the fisheries company was wound up and the trawler fleet put up for sale.

Various theories have been expounded for this sudden and dramatic disappearance of the stocks of prawns. Disturbance and destruction of the breeding grounds by land reclamation activities is one suggested explanation. Others are over-fishing and adverse climatic conditions.

It is significant that the prawning fisheries have been similarly affected elsewhere in The Gulf, particularly in neighbouring Qatar, where the local fisheries company is being kept going only by heavy government subsidies. A regional survey of Gulf fisheries is at present being conducted, but it has come too late to save the prawning industry of Bahrain.

Tim Owen



Concorde is a status symbol for Gulf and Bahrain's world connections.

Progress keeps Kuwait challenge at bay

continued from facing page

Manila and airports within The Gulf. These include a two-hourly shuttle type service for the 20-minute flight between Bahrain and Doha on the Saudi Arabian coast.

Gulf Air has established a reputation for good cabin service and up-to-date aircraft. All services except the local shuttles are by the wide-bodied Lockheed TriStars and Boeing 737-200s, the up-to-date 737 version. Six TriStars and seven 737s are in Gulf Air service.

In the past the line had no cargo aircraft, freight was carried on the TriStars, but in September, 1979 they were replaced by a Boeing 707-320C cargo freighter from British Midland Airways. This doubles Gulf Air's cargo capacity. The freighter provides four services weekly

from London to The Gulf and, subject to government approval, two will be extended to India.

Mina Sulman is Bahrain's general port. BAPCO (Bahrain Petroleum Company) and ALBA (aluminium works) have their own marine terminals, and ASRY's shipyards are also at a distance. Mina Sulman dates from 1962 and has been gradually enlarged and modernized.

Although the peak of Bahrain's building development has passed, and the port officials say their operations have reflected some world recession, the increase of shipping and imports through Mina Sulman seems to have maintained a steady progress.

The port's new extension adds a further four conventional berths bringing the total to 14; but with an eye

to the projected causeway road link with Saudi Arabia much of the future emphasis will be on containerized cargo. A new container terminal which can handle two ships at a time has been built beyond the conventional berths extension.

Apart from these physical additions and the deepening of the channel to take larger ships, a good deal has been done to speed the port's working and to use storage space economically.

Relationships between the port authorities and consignees are friendly and co-operative, staff and agents meeting daily, and a tightening of cargo storage arrangements has been successful and has achieved a good degree of improved efficiency.

P.T.

Hotels

Tourism could be new industry

Until quite recently tourism as an industry did not enter into government thinking in the Gulf states.

Tourism has been developed to an extraordinary degree in the past few decades, but chiefly in countries which have scenic, climatic or cultural assets to sell and a national balance of payments which needs an influx of foreign currency. Although its climate is good for much of the year, The Gulf has limited attractions in the other areas and almost no need of tourism income. Moreover these states had other things to do.

One was the provision of accommodation and travel facilities for the ever-increasing number of business visitors. Lack of hotel accommodation and its attendant troubles—double booking, overcharging, insufficient trained staff—for long coloured the international impression of staying in these countries.

In most of them, and particularly in Bahrain, the accommodation problem has now been overcome, indeed markedly reversed. A number of new hotels have been and are being built, others enlarged. Where it was difficult to find and keep a room, hotels are now looking for business to fill their extra beds. Healthy competition is likely to maintain and improve standards. Prices have been held, even occasionally lowered during the past two years.

Bahrain, therefore, has a new asset: facilities for a certain number of additional visitors in the de luxe category. Tourism could be the means of using this and thus establishing a new, if minor, industry.

Except for visitors who are drawn to the desert for itself, The Gulf's chief gifts are sunshine and sea. Only Oman has any extensive beauty of mountains and coastline, and Oman does not yet feel ready to enter tourism except on a very limited scale. Bahrain has fewer beauties but is ready, and has considerable experience of adopting new ideas.

When Japanese cultured pearls destroyed Bahrain's ancient pearl fishing trade, the island brought wealth and importance. As its own oil resources have dwindled wise planning and leadership have brought in aluminium, food, shipbuilding and communications for the area. Tourism will be added not only because the services are there but as part of the policy of diversifying the country's economy.

There are now some 2,000 hotel rooms comprising well over 3,000 beds. These are in four categories of hotel, luxury, first class, second class and tourist, and the five in the present luxury group—Delmon, Gulf, Hilton, Holiday Inn and Ramada—account for half the room total, and more are being added in the upper grades.

The Gulf Hotel has 240 rooms in a new tower block due to open on March 1. The new Sheraton is a 350-room five-star establishment scheduled to be in operation by the autumn. In 1981 Trust House Forte, which already has the smaller Al Jazira Hotel in Bahrain, plans to open its 285-room Diplomat.

Access to Bahrain is almost entirely by air and—

again because of the business demand—air links by the national carrier Gulf Air, British Airways and more than two dozen other lines are immeasurably more extensive and frequent than in most places where tourism is the chief reason d'être for flying.

Thus there is no difficulty in reaching Bahrain and there should now be none in staying there, but there remains the vital matter of incentive. Why should the visitors come, and what will they do?

One attraction is a friendly, outward-looking people. "Island people are different," said a Bahraini, and went on to expand on the cosmopolitan outlook of islanders when compared with brother Arabs of the deserts, mountains, or even the long Gulf coastline. From time immemorial there has been a port here, and it has been a meeting place for all the peoples who travelled and traded in The Gulf. Today the Bahrainis born and the expatriates living and working there are good at looking to the ways and thinking of peoples from many parts of the world.

Second it is a remarkably free and cheerful place. There are good restaurants as well as the hotels, alcoholic drinks are readily available, there are some well-stocked shops and a colourful mix in the capital, Al Manama.

Bahrain consists of more than 30 islands 15 miles off the Saudi Arabian coast. The main one accounts for more than four fifths of the total land area of 255 square miles, and two others—Al Muharraq and Sitra—are linked to it by causeway.

This group is one of the areas which lays claim to have been the garden of Eden. In modern times, despite its famous fresh-water springs, much of the interior has been desert, but irrigation is now bringing a green beauty back to the scale. There are some good beaches.

History, somewhat neglected at the beginning of the oil boom, is now honoured. There have been human settlements on Bahrain for more than 50,000 years. The centre of the main island is dotted with curious grave mounds which various archaeological groups have been and are excavating. There is an excellent museum showing all sides of Bahrain's prehistoric and more recent past.

Few old buildings have survived the new world of concrete but the centre of the old Arab town of Al Muharraq is intact and two beautiful palaces there have been lovingly restored and preserved. There is horse racing, camel racing, sailing and all kinds of water sports, and some evening entertainment.

Gulf Air has been quick to see the possibilities and now has a special manager for dealing with future package tour business.

In October, 1978, one of the first official steps was taken with the appointment of a Jordanian tourism adviser, Mr Fakri Maani, to the Ministry of Information to correlate and make recommendations on all the facets of Bahrain in relation to tourism potential.

P.T.



Trading room of the Saudi National Commercial Bank, Bahrain.

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IMPORTANT. An expanded Arabic language news report will be launched shortly. It will be available to private subscribers in the Middle East as well as to the media. The new Reuters Arabic Service will provide fast, accurate and dependable global coverage of political, economic and other news with emphasis on the Arab world.



REUTERS
World markets as they move

BANCO DO BRASIL S.A.

CONSOLIDATED AND CONDENSED COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CONDITION IN MILLIONS OF U.S. DOLLARS

Assets	31.12.74	31.12.75	31.12.76	31.12.77	31.12.78
Cash and due from banks	1,021.0	1,142.0	1,344.7	1,098.1	2,767.7
Loans	20,856.9	26,166.8	31,932.4	39,023.9	42,499.8
Securities	338.7	429.7	506.9	729.8	1,010.0
Bank premises and equipment	356.6	373.4	370.3	900.7	815.0
Other assets	663.2	1,094.4	4,772.4	4,983.9	1,965.3
TOTAL ASSETS	23,236.4	29,206.3	38,926.7	46,736.4	49,057.8
Liabilities					
Capital and reserves	1,709.0	2,457.5	2,688.6	3,547.5	4,057.5
Deposits	15,007.8	17,537.7	23,226.3	26,565.1	22,729.2*
Demand	8,183.2	9,129.6	9,839.7	11,019.8	8,059.9
Time	6,824.6	8,408.1	13,386.6	15,545.3	14,669.3
Funds borrowed	1,147.8	1,367.4	1,504.0	1,760.7	8,654.2*
Funds for refinancing	3,301.6	5,882.5	8,014.0	11,341.5	11,804.3
Other liabilities	2,070.2	1,961.2	3,493.8	3,521.6	1,812.6
TOTAL LIABILITIES	23,236.4	29,206.3	38,926.7	46,736.4	49,057.8

The figures shown above are the conversion of Cruzeiros into U.S. dollars at the rate prevailing on the respective balance sheet dates.

* 1978 figures comply with the new Brazilian Corporate Law (Law No. 6,404, of 15.12.76)

FOREIGN NETWORK

London, Paris, Paris-Opera, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Milan, Vienna, Rome, Lisbon, Madrid, Stockholm, Zurich, Geneva, Luxembourg, Brussels, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, Miami, Atlanta, Houston, Toronto, Mexico City, Tokyo, Abidjan, Grand Cayman, Panama City, Colon, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Ciudad Vieja, Paysandu, Rivera, Asuncion, Puerto Presidente Stroessner, Santiago de Chile, Antofagasta, Concepcion, Valparaiso, La Paz, Singapore, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Cochabamba, Bogota, Caracas, Lima, Quito, Tehran, Lagos, and Sydney.

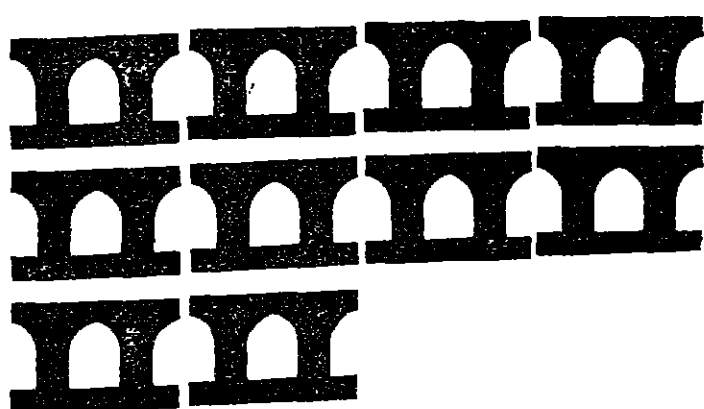
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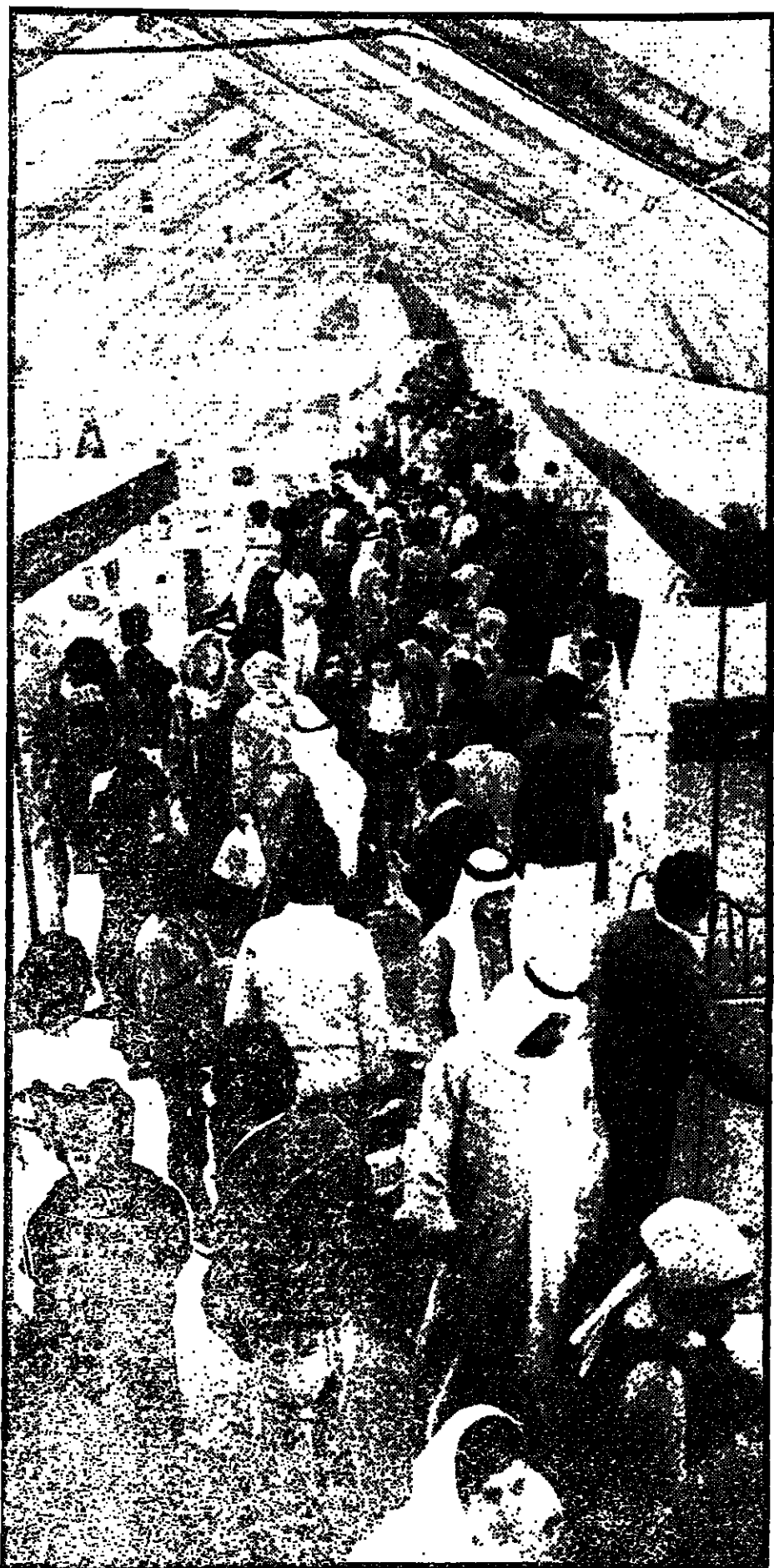
The bank is already actively involved internationally in foreign exchange, money markets, bond trading, syndicated loans and guarantee facilities. With help from its representative offices in London and Frankfurt, it also bank has lead managed several international bank syndications. It also has a successful record for lead managing Saudi Riyal note issues in the Far East and Europe.

The National Commercial Bank

Head Office: King Abdul Aziz Street, Jeddah, P.O. Box 3555. Tel. 33580/4

Telex: 401102/401086. Cable: Banksaudi

Bahrain Office: Zayani House, P.O. Box 20363. Tel. 231182. Telex 9298 NCB GN/BN; 9299 FK



The Middle East food and equipment exhibition in the Bahrain Exhibition Centre. It is government policy to encourage foreign firms to do business.

Visitors' guide

A reminder of the Garden of Eden

Many Western expatriates enjoy living and working in Bahrain for more than financial reasons. These facts are a good recommendation for this little group of islands which lie in the great bay of the Gulf formed by the coasts of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

From June to September residents, both Arab and European, endure the heat and humidity with varying degrees of anguish or resignation, but for the rest of the year it is not difficult for imagination to clothe it with the grace of the Garden of Eden, at least as far as the colour of sea and sky are concerned. Trees are rare—though many are being planted as irrigation increases—but there are flowers.

A short taxi drive from the airport at Mubarrag leads across the causeway to the capital, Al Manamah, the heart of things where most of the hotels, administrative offices and commercial

organizations are to be found.

Now that there is no longer a serious shortage of hotel rooms, one's choice from the leading four or five depends on personal taste or location. All are of the large luxurious type familiar to visitors in the Middle East and Far East, with more freedom and cosmopolitan atmosphere than in some of the stricter Islamic countries. Room prices in the top grade are about BD 30 a night.

The 120-room Delmon is the classic hotel of Bahrain. Smaller than the other big hotels it has more personal atmosphere, and being at the western end of Government Road and within walking distance of the city's commercial centre it is well placed for most business travellers.

Almost everyone who is anyone in Bahrain drifts in and out of the Delmon bar at one time or another. The

supper room has a well-deserved reputation for food and service. Bedrooms are less elegant than in some of the newer hotels but are being systematically modernized and redecorated. The desk staff are almost always helpful and efficient.

Bahrain's Hilton lies at the other end of this key road and is an obvious choice for the visitor on official business, close to Government House, the British Embassy and the British Council offices. It is one of the handiest Hiltons, very well equipped, with a swimming pool and good dining room service. All these hotels provide sumptuous buffet lunches which enable the professional luncher to tailor his eating time to the needs of a full schedule of appointments. The Hilton buffet is one of the best.

The New Sheraton, scheduled to open in autumn, lies between Gov-

ernment House and the Hilton, and a little farther east is the Holiday Inn, similar in furnishing and decor to others of that chain, praised for its food and service and with a superb position overlooking the sea.

The Gulf Hotel, owned by Gulf Air, is outside the town standing on a little promontory to the south-east 10 minutes' drive away in good traffic conditions. Familiar to many visitors for several years, The Gulf has now been transformed. The new tower block which will open in a few weeks' time has 240 rooms which will constitute the regular accommodation; older rooms will be kept for emergency use by delayed air passengers. The hotel has a high reputation for its cuisine, and some regular visitors consider it offers the best food in Bahrain.

As in most Middle East cities, visitors tend to use the hotels far more than in Western capitals for infor-

mal meetings, and the hotels, therefore, provide a high standard. However, Bahrain also has several excellent independent restaurants.

Keith's is a small, stylish restaurant with good food and courteous service. It is a place to talk and eat in quiet comfort.

Talk of the Town is larger, but elegant and restful too, with soft background music, excellent cooking and service. Sassa's is another popular restaurant. The Mansouri Wine and Beef Bar at Mansouri Mansion (a block of service flats in the Kuwait Road) specializes in fondue and pizzas, and there are several Chinese restaurants and others.

Most of the business visitor's transport about the island will be by taxi, unless cars are available. There is no difficulty in getting taxis at all the main hotels, but they are expensive and it is wise to negotiate the fare

before starting on any longer journey.

Hotel desk staff will advise what is a fair price. Distances are often expressed in the time taken to drive from one place to another, but these estimates must be treated with some reserve because Al Manamah suffers acute traffic jams at rush hours.

Government officials and others are usually accessible, and appointments can often be made at short notice, if one is prepared to accept some delays on arrival.

The Bahrainis, like other Arabs, practise a more formal courtesy in behaviour than is now usual in the West. An affront to honour or hospitality will be resented and remembered even if their good manners conceal the wound. On the other hand friendship is a very real and lasting bond.

Penelope Turing

Doing business

Britons enjoy language advantage

Any British businessman visiting Bahrain, particularly for the first time, should appreciate that he is arriving among a community with a long-standing and staunchly pro-British tradition, and the personification of this is Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifah, Emir of Bahrain, who is both popular and respected among his own people and expatriates alike.

Bahrain enjoys a political stability which is conducive to good business relations and activities, and the policy of its Government is to encourage foreign firms to come to do business on the island. The friendly atmosphere which pervades Bahrain makes itself felt to the visiting Westerner immediately on arrival, a fact which is borne out by those who live and work on the island. Another great advantage which the British businessman enjoys over

many others is in the matter of language. He will find that all Bahraini merchants and businessmen, and for that matter almost all Bahrainis with whom he will come in contact, speak fluent English.

Usually a businessman visiting the Middle East will include Bahrain in an itinerary of The Gulf, which will include five or six other visits to the Gulf states. Time will probably allow for only a few days in Bahrain, so it is of paramount importance that no time is wasted. It is therefore essential that the visit is properly planned. Bahrain observes the Muslim weekend, so Thursdays and Fridays should be avoided if possible. Friday is a good day for flying between destinations, if a day off for relaxation is not required.

A check should be made of religious holidays, the dates of which vary from one year to another, and

national holidays, the dates of which are fixed. The month of Ramadan, particularly the latter part of it, is best avoided. Business can be conducted in Ramadan, but office hours are shortened and interest and efficiency tend to drop as the month proceeds.

Selection of the hotel in which the visiting businessman is to stay is important. Locality rather than price these days should be the criterion. Gone are the days when the harassed businessman had to fight for a bed in an hotel. Now the competition to get his custom is so keen that the taxi drivers have a part in it. Do not be taken in by the taxi driver at the airport who informs you that the hotel at which you have booked a room is full. He will get commission for taking you to another hotel.

Hotels now vie with each other in giving reductions, so negotiate it for yourself

rather than with the taxi driver.

Bahrain has a reputation for extremes of heat and humidity, which is true of the summer months, but the evenings and nights from December to March can be surprisingly chilly. Frost has been recorded there in January and February. When visiting Bahrain during the winter do not confine yourself to lightweight suits and tropical clothing because you will end up with a chill.

No visa is required for the British passport holder who is visiting Bahrain for a period not exceeding 30 days, so for all practical purposes the visiting businessman requires only his passport and health documents. Cholera outbreaks do occur in Bahrain and neighbouring countries from time to time, so anti-cholera vaccination is advisable.

Liquor for the visitor presents no problems. Bahrain

is the most relaxed of all the Gulf states in its attitude towards alcohol. All the hotels and clubs likely to be visited by business men have bars. Liquor regulations have been tightened recently, and particular attention must be paid to driving after drinking. The accident rate in Bahrain, as in all Gulf states, is high. A traffic accident involving the consumption of liquor will result in a week's imprisonment and a hefty fine.

Bahraini government ministers and officials as well as merchants and businessmen are well used to dealing with the British, are conversant with our ways and visit Britain frequently. Nevertheless the visiting businessman is well advised to observe certain codes of practice in Bahrain.

The Bahraini will judge the respect which he is being accorded by his European visitor by the manner

of his dress. Even in the hottest weather a suit should be worn when calling on a minister or high government official. A tie and a neat appearance will give a favourable impression when talking on others. Sloppy and casual dress will be regarded as a casual approach and produce a corresponding result.

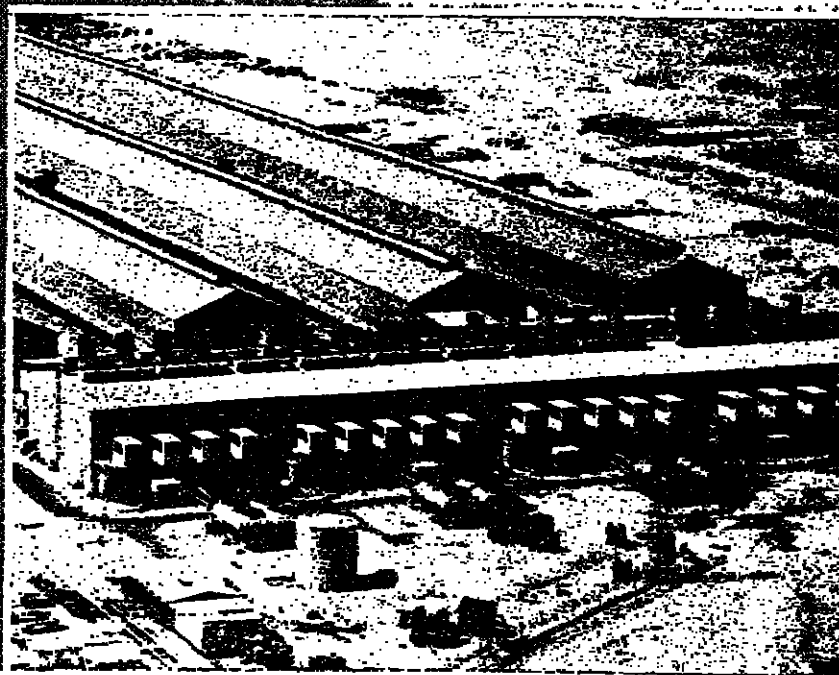
Although rather less so than in neighbouring countries, discussions are prone to interruption by lengthy telephone conversations and other visitors. This tends to draw them out, so it is important not to organize too tight a schedule for any one day. Arabs, far more than Europeans, attach considerable importance to personal knowledge and acquaintance. A personal visit is worth a deluge of correspondence and brochures through the post.

Tim Owen

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Bahrain's unique location, the ready availability of natural gas and a large pool of skilled and semi-skilled workers turned the heat on. Production is in full swing. Today there is

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The Glint in Bahrain's eye

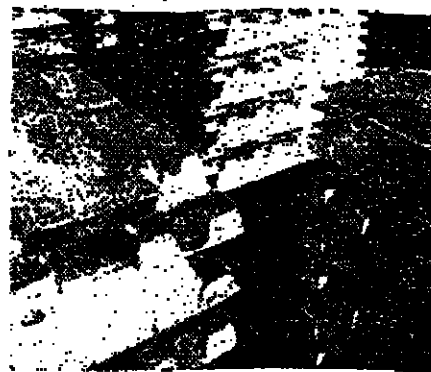
Bahrain Government owns 57.9% of Alba. As a leading local industry Alba's added value contribution to the Bahrain economy in

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A further investment of around \$120m. will increase output by 45,000 tonnes per annum in 1980.

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A MODERATE BILL

Human life is not held cheap in our society. On the contrary, its preservation and its protection require it to be rated more highly than at most periods of the past. Yet society witnessed the deliberate abortion of 140,000 human foetuses in the latest year counted. We have a law that has stopped the judicial execution of convicted murderers, and a law that permits the wholesale, though not wholly unregulated, medical destruction of foetal life: and observations suggest that those who approve the first state of the law commonly approve the second too. What is the explanation of this apparent paradox? Paradox it is, for whatever (if any) civil status a human foetus may be thought by extension or analogy to possess, there is no gainsaying that life inheres in it.

Differing views

Evidently, it is a matter of recognition: at what point along the way from conception to placement in a cradle does one see in the rapidly developing entity of tissue, flesh and blood being deserving of the life-protection unquestionably owing to that being from the cradle onwards? Some recognize such a being from the start, the fertilized ovum is genetically complete, it is created life, it grows with unbroken continuity into man or woman. Some do not recognize a being which there is a duty to protect from destruction until the foetus may be supposed to display some visible likeness to a baby. Some withhold recognition until the point (22 weeks old?) at which the foetus becomes theoretically capable of sustaining an independent existence. Some withhold recognition until the full term of pregnancy; and some even until after birth and after inspection to ensure that there is no gross abnormality in the baby.

Most commonly however, when people reflect on the matter, they may be expected to find that there is no one point at which they pass from total disregard to full recognition; rather they impute a separate existence, with separate right to protection progressively, on a scale from negligible to full, as the life develops from conception to birth; and the progress of their recognition probably has a lot to do with their visual imagination of what is going on in the womb.

DÉTENTE DEPENDS ON RUSSIAN POLICY

Mr Brezhnev says that "reckless imperialist forces" must not be allowed to destroy the benefits of international détente. Speaking at a dinner for Heng Samrin, the Cambodian leader, he said that the Soviet Union "does not wish to give up any of the good things achieved during the 1970s in the international arena. Moreover we consider it indispensable to move forward". He went on to call for progress in controlling the arms race, eliminating conflict situations in the Middle East and South-East Asia and turning the Indian Ocean into a "zone of peace". His speech came hard on the heels of an article in *Pravda* saying much the same thing and expressing confidence that "in spite of the intrigues of the enemies of peace, détente has every chance of remaining the main trend in relations between states".

It is difficult to be sure whether this line of argument has been developed merely to cover the period during which Moscow digests world reaction to its invasion of Afghanistan or whether it represents the start of a systematic new "offensive" designed to repair the damage while clinging to the gains. It could be a bit of both. Moscow has certainly been taken aback by the strength of western reaction but it does not yet know how deep this reaction is or how long it will be sustained. The logical tactic would be to have a go at softening and deflecting it before deciding whether any basic reappraisal of policy is necessary.

This makes it all the more necessary for the West to define its positions in terms that will be clear to Moscow. Until now the main need has been to find as many ways as possible of demonstrating to the Russians that they have gone too far. In spite of some disarray in the western ranks this phase has been reasonably successful, especially as the French and the Germans have not accepted that Europe cannot remain an island of détente during a conflict which involves both the basic principles of East-

West relations and by extension the security of western oil supplies. The second phase of the western reaction is now also under way. This consists of a more searching look at the state of western defences, including both present and potential security arrangements in the Gulf region. The Soviet Union may hope to deflect this by pushing for a return to "normal" relations but they must not be allowed to succeed—and on present evidence they seem unlikely to. Concern about the state of the military balance between East and West had been building up for some time, reinforced not only by the relentless growth of Soviet military spending but also by the freedom with which the Soviet Union was deploying military force around the globe. The invasion of Afghanistan brought this concern to a head and has at least created a lasting change in western perceptions. This should continue until a better balance has been restored, whether by rearmament or negotiation or a mixture of both.

The third phase in the western response must be to define the terms on which a relationship loosely described by the word détente might be resumed. Very few people want to live in a state of armed confrontation with the Soviet Union. Very few can be happy to see permanently dismantled the fragile contacts which have grown up over the past decade, the trade links, the attempts at better diplomatic communication, the largely fruitless but necessary negotiations to limit the arms race, and the equally fruitless but necessary search for an agreed code of conduct in global relations.

Equally clearly, however, it would be wrong to expect to put together the pieces as they were before. To begin with there can be little or no progress towards the détente which Mr Brezhnev professes to desire as long as his troops remain on the ground in Afghanistan with no sign of any desire by the population to have them

independent life except for the reasons just stated. There is still room for medical argument about whether it is necessary to stipulate 20 weeks to secure that objective, or whether 22 or 24 weeks would do; but there should be little disagreement about the objective itself. Second, the Bill adds the adjectives "serious" and "substantial" to the statutory criterion for lawful abortion. This is intended at least to scupper the statistical argument by which some have sought to justify abortion on request—the argument that abortion must be the lesser risk to the life of the pregnant woman since the death rate in childbirth is higher than the death rate in induced abortions. Both sides to the debate probably exaggerate the restrictive effect of inserting those words. The committee under Mrs Justice Lane, which examined the working of the Abortion Act and reported in 1974, considered similar insertions and observed, "Prosecution for breaches of the Act based upon an absence of medical opinion formed in good faith" would hardly be rendered any less difficult than it is now if other limiting words were substituted.

The pressures arising and combining of the undoubted distress of very many women who become pregnant after hoping that they won't, of the social convenience and economies to be had from abortion, of the convenience of doctors and their dislike of anything that smacks of invasion of their clinical judgment—these pressures have caused the facility of abortion to be made more readily available than parliament intended when the 1967 Act was passed and have caused the protection of the law for foetal life to be less effective than intended. The latest attempt at amendment, Mr John Corrie's Bill which comes to third reading in the Commons on Friday, seeks to counteract that development. It deserves success.

Right principle

Third, the Bill sets out to sever all financial links between counselling or referral agencies and clinics where abortions are performed. This is meant to preclude the possibility of venal advice—something it must be said the Bill's sponsors have not produced clear instances of. The principle is right, the present drafting is not.

More than a quarter of all abortions in the United Kingdom are arranged and conducted by charities which link an advisory service with abortion clinics. They have come into existence partly to compensate for those areas within the NHS where the practice is to be unusually sparing in the grant of abortions. Their sudden disappearance probably would provoke a return to illicit abortion in some places for some time. But their disappearance or even their reduction in any very big way need not be expected from the Bill. Their financial base, the demand for their services, and the genuinely charitable impulses that contribute to them, are likely to ensure that they survive the very proper separation of advisory service from clinic.

There. Every indication is that what Afghanistan wants is some form of non-aligned Islamic government. Mr Karmal has made some attempts to present himself as a friend of Islam but with no success and no significant support from other Islamic countries. The Russians have simply imposed their own puppet government by force on a non-aligned country. Moreover, this puppet has publicly expressed support for "our Pushun and Baluchi" brothers" thereby threatening the security of neighbouring countries. This cannot be acceptable as a permanent situation.

Beyond this, and arising from it, there is the broad question of the principles on which détente is supposed to be based. When Mr Nixon and Mr Brezhnev came together in 1972 they agreed on a number of principles one of which was that neither should try to obtain unilateral advantage at the expense of the other. The Russians never fully accepted this principle. They went on claiming their right to support "wars of liberation". It was always recognized in the West that this basic difference of approach existed. The question was how far the Russians would press it in practice. In Afghanistan they have pushed it much too far in spite of very clear warnings.

This means that written codes of conduct are going to be regarded with even more scepticism in the future than they were in the past. There is going to be more lasting distrust of the Soviet Union's willingness to exercise restraint in the use of its growing power. This distrust will continue at least until the complexion of the next leadership is clear, and probably beyond. The way back to "détente" is therefore bound to be difficult. It will depend not only on reasserting an acceptable military balance but also on how far the Soviet Union can truly grasp the point that global military rivalry is not only a dangerous waste of resources but is also incompatible with constructive East-West relations in other spheres.

faith that given proper leadership and the political will which inspired the founders of the European Community, most of our current internal problems could be resolved, and the Community would then be free to tackle such major challenges as energy and the global instability which threatens our very survival. Yours faithfully, BERYL M. GOLDSMITH, Deputy Chairman, Conservative Group for Europe, Europa House Club, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1, February 1.

Chiding the Community

From Miss Beryl Goldsmith
Sir, As the person responsible for organizing the event at which Mr Heath delivered the speech analysed by Mr Ronald Butt (January 31), I am bound to say that I believe the wrong conclusions are drawn. Certainly Mr Heath was out-spoken in expressing regret at the current apparent lack of determination in the European Community to draw closer together in the face of global dangers. Mr Heath is far from the Community as a spokesman of considerable stature.

Trade unions and the rule of law

From Brigadier P. E. Hutchins

Sir, The statement by Lord Wedderburn of Charlton February 4 to the effect that the Law Lords' reassertion of the traditional meaning of "golden formula" cannot provide "an excuse or justification" for picketing—by implication anyone else who now wishes to see it varied cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

Surely the one unquestionable benefit conferred by the recent interplay between the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords is the clear distinction which has been drawn between the law as it stands and the law as many people of moderate and reasonable views would, in today's changed circumstances, wish it to stand.

Those Members of Parliament who, on behalf of their constituents, now intend to pursue changes in this law will rightly seek to justify their case in the House of Commons and need no excuse for so doing.

Yours faithfully,
P. E. HUTCHINS,
76 Shoe Lane, EC4,
February 4.

From Mr Noel Hughes

Sir, To see the law on trade union activity as "clear" one needs to be as closely blinkered as Lord Wedderburn. The right to trade union activity and the right to picket are not in dispute. But what is to be done if, in pursuance of a strike, a union takes action against an uninvolved firm, possibly leading to its bankruptcy and the unemployment of its workers?

I, as a layman, thought that reconciling this conflict was what Lord Denning, unsuccessfully, has been trying to do. But the law is clear only to those who can overlook hurt to the uninvolved and insist on the right to picket as a professor of law proclaiming himself among them.

May one put a question to Lord Wedderburn? If he believes that trade union law passed in 1966 is both clear and appropriate in 1980, does he believe that the relative strength of unions and companies in 1980 had existed in 1966, that Act would ever have been passed? Yours faithfully,
NOEL HUGHES,
16 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

From Mr R. S. Montgomery

Sir, You go too far, at least in relation to the question of picketing, in asserting (February 2) that when it comes to trade union law no rights or justice exist under British law.

Although the state of the law

may not in all respects be satisfactory, it has always been apparent that the real problem lies in the enforcement of the law.

In so far as one can judge from press and television reports much of the picketing which has taken place in connection with the steel strike and other disputes in recent times consists of the physical obstruction of the means of access to business premises and therefore does not enjoy the immunity conferred upon picketing in furtherance of a trade dispute.

The statute does not permit anyone to stop another against his will from going to work or to prevent others from going about their lawful business. The police nevertheless decline to intervene unless and until actual violence occurs or seems imminent and they should not be expected to do otherwise.

It may be that pickets genuinely believe that they are entitled to behave in this way and that others must acquiesce.

Despite this, there are no reports of employers seeking the redress to which they are plainly entitled. There may well be procedural difficulties or reasons of policy which make the taking of civil action unattractive—or just that the British are unaccustomed to resolving political or industrial issues by means of litigation.

However, these considerations would presumably continue to inhibit action to enforce the law even if it were to be amended by drawing a distinction between "picketing" which is deemed to be "primary" and would continue to enjoy immunity and that which is "secondary" and would not.

The right to picket is essentially the right to demonstrate peacefully. Lord Denning himself has been an eloquent defender of this right. It is in the general interest that it should not be abused, nor that it should be properly restricted.

It is ironic that Lord Denning's judgment in the *MacShane* case was surely capable of acceptance by all concerned in defining the limits of legitimate secondary action. It expressly refused that secondary action could be regarded as being "in pursuance" of a trade dispute and was therefore far more favourable to the union interest than the proposals relating to picketing in the Employment Bill.

In the present atmosphere it seems a probable task to devise changes in the law which will be generally acceptable and enforceable. For this lamentable conclusion the Government, the unions and the Court of Appeal must share the responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MONTGOMERY,
21 High Holborn, W.C1,
February 4.

Iron and steel in South Wales

From Professor Ray Rees

Sir, The British Steel Corporation's closure policy at Llanwern and Port Talbot will cause 11,500 redundancies and this, together with the policy of closing coal imports, will cause a further 15,000 redundancies in the coal industry. If these workers will not be reemployed to produce real output elsewhere in the economy, then a standard proposition in economics says that the cost of the redundancies in the production of steel and coal.

A calculation of closing coal imports on this basis would make Welsh coal competitive with imports, and similarly the effective cost of steel would fall to a level consistent with full-capacity production at Llanwern and Port Talbot. Thus a consistent application of the principle of opportunity cost would rule out the redundancy policy.

Will the labour be otherwise unemployed? Given the redundancies in coal and steel, a conservative estimate of the multiplier effect suggests that this would grow to 40,000 within a year. Over the decade 1966-75, the opening of some 640 new plants and factories created around 55,000 new jobs in Wales, against the background of generous fiscal incentives and an economic climate on the whole healthier than that which faces us over the next few years.

Despite this the unemployment rate over the past decade has increased from under 4 per cent to just about 8 per cent, in line with the rest of the economy. In addition, of course, the unemployment will be highly localized. It seems reasonable to assume therefore that the average worker made redundant will remain so for 4 to 5 years. The opportunity cost of labour must therefore be well below current wage levels.

The hard-headed layman may well regard this as typical economists' sophistry and he would be right, if we tried to ignore the significant effect of the actual money cost of employing these

workers on the Government's budget constraint.

Steelworkers and coalminers insist upon being paid rather well, whatever the state of the economy. We should, however, look at the net cost of the redundancies to the Exchequer. The cost of retaining the 11,500 steelworkers in employment can be taken as around £22m per annum (taking Sir Keith Joseph's figure of a £1,800 subsidy per man) as the cost of the closing coal subsidy is £2.8m per annum (2.8 million tons at £1 per ton, *The Times*, January 30). Against this £25m must be set:

- (a) unemployment benefit etc to 40,000 workers, say at least £40m;
- (b) net loss of taxation on incomes and expenditure of those made redundant at say 25 per cent of the average wage, £40m;
- (c) costs of the incentives required to induce firms to reabsorb (eventually) the unemployed (I have no reliable estimate).

Quite clearly there is a substantial net benefit to the Exchequer from not pushing through the redundancies. To this should be added first the avoidance of the social costs of large-scale and persistent unemployment, and secondly the dependence on a source of imported fuel whose apparent cheapness would be reversed by the kind of exchange rate adjustment required to eliminate the deficit in the United Kingdom's non-oil trade balance. There must be a less costly way of achieving an efficient steel industry than this.

I hope to have established the proposition that an application of rational principles would lead to a reversal of the BSC's policies in South Wales. Has the Government the consistency and courage to accept it?

Yours faithfully,
RAY REES,
Department of Economics,
University College,
Cardiff.

Threat to special schools

From Mr J. Rendel Jones

Sir, As Chairman of the Governors of Chelvey Heritage School for physically handicapped children, I write to draw attention to the urgent problems facing voluntary and independent special schools. It is nearly two years since the Warnock Report on the education of handicapped children and young people (Cmd 7212) was published and yet no Government action seems to have been taken on this first survey ever of special education in this country.

The matter is becoming more urgent than two years ago, when the Warnock Committee urged that local education authorities should draw up plans for special education in their areas which would give them the opportunity of reappraising the aims of special schools which they maintain or use, many of which are uncertain about the direction of their development. There is a danger that escalating costs caused by inflation and reduced numbers may force some excellent schools, especially the smaller, to close.

It is, however, essential to preserve a nucleus of the best schools as centres of excellence for children with severe or complex physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities

or for those with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties and as centres of specialist expertise and of research in special education.

One cannot rely on market forces or special pleading to achieve a solution but it surely calls for planning at national level by the Secretary of State for Education and Science in consultation with the education authorities and the voluntary organizations.

The problems are educational as well as financial and the possibility of direct assistance from central Government to selected special schools ought not to be beyond the realms of possibility. Grants towards capital expenditure at non-maintained schools are already made by the Department of Education and Science. It would not appear to be a major change of policy if grants were extended to revenue expenditure, possibly by embracing them within the Assisted Places Scheme to which the Government are committed.

But, first, government departments must plan a list of special schools, perhaps as well as of hospitals, which the nation cannot afford to lose.

Yours faithfully,
J. RENDEL JONES,
10 The Avenue,
Lewes, East Sussex.

Deciding when to perform an abortion

From Miss Valerie Thompson

Sir, I hesitate to add to a correspondence which contains so many emotive broadsides, but I am bound to be at the sharp end of abortion law dilemmas.

I became a senior hospital doctor just before the introduction of the 1967 Abortion Act and, as the most junior gynaecological consultant in my hospital, was immediately under intense pressure to perform terminations of pregnancy for indications ranging from life-threatening medical conditions to psycho-social needs.

In the meantime I had recently become the mother of two very much wanted children. My conventional postgraduate training had endowed me with a skilled knowledge of the hazards of performing abortion and with a reinforced idealistic concept that reputable gynaecological practice did not include abortion for anything less than life-threatening organic disease.

Initial confusion and anger in the face of subsequent demands was not helped by the lack of guidance in the 1967 Bill. It was and is permissive; and it is open to abuse. It is also rightly protective of those doctors who feel unable to carry out this work.

My subsequent personal understanding and response to a request for abortion has evolved over the years under the influence of many factors. These include a belief that if a woman asks me to abort, it is her ability she must decide, in the light of her own particular circumstances, on the limitation of her own fertility.

No method of contraception is 100 per cent safe; but there is no more crippling endorsement than to be an unwanted child. Abortion techniques have improved to reduce residual risks; but informed counselling remains indispensable and calls for expansion and not restriction.

If a woman wants an abortion she will somehow obtain one, as doctors we have an obligation to see that it is carried out with skill and caring. Thus, for me, the 1967 Act has finally become a framework within which I can meet the needs of my patients, and I see no acceptable way of returning to the restrictive attitudes and practices which obtained before 1967.

I ask for the Act to be left as it is. The Bishop of Durham (January 30) has pointed to the impracticability of precision in legislation which involves intimate personal dilemmas.

His view of a workable code of practice to remedy proven abuse may be difficult to implement, but doctors in general would, I feel, be willing to support his suggestion. Yours faithfully,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
Consultant Gynaecologist,
Royal Free Hospital, NW3,
February 3.

From Professor R. J. Berry

Sir, Your correspondence on abortion has repeatedly referred to every fertilized egg as unique. This is probably true, but it is a poor argument against abortion, since there is no moral value in uniqueness *per se*.

The sense in which a fertilized egg is unique is entirely a combinatorial one of re-assorted chemical molecules. Moreover, both the sperm and the egg which fuse are unique in exactly the same sense, and no one worries about the million of sperm and eggs which never achieve any further development.

Even worse, a cancer cell usually results from a mutation in a cell of a unique individual, and is therefore also unique, but such a cell is never a cause for ethical concern.

The present confusion is probably a hangover from the days when a fertilized egg was believed to contain the adult in miniature. (It is not

all that long ago when the sperm was thought to contribute all the form of the next generation; the female merely nourished the all-important homunculus provided by the male.)

This is now known to be incorrect: almost any cell of an individual has the potential to function as a fertilized egg, and this potential has been experimentally realized in experiments with amphibia in which the nucleus of an adult cell has functioned as an egg nucleus. The egg is merely a cell which is "switched on" for development.

The essence of the Christian (as opposed to the medical or sociological) argument against abortion is that every person is an immortal soul. It is false extrapolation to assume that the "life" from God which transforms a biological being into a spiritual one is automatically given to every fertilized egg. Such an assumption is far too all-embracing and denies the sovereignty of God, who is the giver of life.

The Church of England agnosticism as to when (and, by implication, if) a foetus acquires immortality is much better. After all, every person or creature has a factually good biological life and is almost certainly genetically unique. Bad biology will not make good ethics.

Yours, etc.
R. J. BERRY,
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine,
University of London,
8 Hunter Street, WC1,
February 4.

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, Professor Clauville Williams is quite right (January 31), that the 1967 Abortion Act was never intended to permit abortion simply on request, but only for proper medical reasons duly certified by two doctors acting independently and in good faith, taking due regard for the child.

But that isn't how it has worked out in practice. This is because in its first form, omitting the words "grave" and "serious" in the original version of Mr David Steel's Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill (1966), it requires only that the risk to the mother's life should be greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.

And since the risk to her life in an early therapeutic abortion is now practically nil, that will always be less than the nowadays very small, but still not wholly non-existent risks in normal childbirth. So this allows abortions for any reason at all, and Professor Peter Huntingford, for one example, has several times publicly declared that he will procure an abortion on the NHS in the London Hospital for anyone who asks for it, requiring no other reason to be given; and he has challenged anyone to show that he isn't acting strictly within the letter of the law.

Professor Williams may also be right that some of the MPs who voted for the Act in 1967 did so in the belief that it would allow of abortions for much broader reasons than the majority supposed. And no doubt many of them were not aware that the Act unamended did so precisely because in practice it does allow abortion on request.

Mr Steel and his supporters, however, always insisted that the Bill wasn't meant to have that effect, and the Lane Committee have confirmed that this was not the intention of Parliament at the time.

But this is what we have now got, whether we like it or not, and it surely cannot be right to keep an Act which in practice does more or less the opposite of what Parliament intended when it was passed. Yours, etc.
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge,
February 3.

Invasion of Afghanistan

From The Saged Idries Shah

Sir, Surely it is already widely known both the capitalist West and the totalitarian East have behaved in a manner regarded as aggressive by the peoples of the countries which they have invaded under arms? Recent letters in your columns, however, must not be taken to imply that only the sinless may be permitted to support virtue. Foreign troops on national soil are objectionable to the people of a country; systems which do not effectively allow a people to choose their own government are always to be opposed.

If there is to be a censorship, or even a modification of expression required, where is it to stop? Someone might object to my sister Amina's letter to you (January 19)

because she is not herself a guerilla in the field, or an Emir Qurban's rejoinder because he writes from London and not Jalalabad.

It is often said that we must live with the Russians. The point surely is we must live with them on our terms. That is what is being offered in Afghanistan.

The unanimity of the Islamic States in the face of the Soviet Union's action has no connection with sympathy for or antipathy towards either of the power blocks. It stems directly from the commandment in Islam that tyrannical and oppression must be fought by every Moslem.

I am, Sir,
yours faithfully,
IDRIES SHAH,
The Athenaeum, SW1,
February 2.

Economic decline

From Major-General D. G. Moore

Sir, As a colleague of Professor R. V. Jones (February 1) in the early postwar years, it fell to me to prepare an analysis among world powers of the educational background of members of the higher ranks of civil (and military) servants. The purpose was to compare the proportion whose training enabled them to influence the evolution of industry by decisions taken on their own judgment in their respective countries.

While the basis of assessment must weight the result, and the quality of their education was not compared, there was no ambiguity in the trend. It is sufficient to quote three significant figures.

The number educated in the sciences or engineering as a proportion of the senior establishment were:

- USSR 1 in 2
- USA 1 in 11
- UK 1 in 32

One the 32 was not enough, and we did not learn the lesson in time. Mr Rees-Mogg refers in your same issue to the *Dreadnought* Bank's analysis, highlighting the depressing results of British productivity.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS G. MOORE,
94 Piccadilly, W1.

Insurance eye-opener

From Mr Barry K. Flynn

Sir, Having recently taken the unusual precaution of insuring my spectacles, I was intrigued to discover upon receipt of my certificate that the following "exemption" applies. Apparently I am not entitled to claim if the pair of spectacles in question is either damaged or destroyed by "ionising radiation" or any "explosive nuclear assembly".

I can understand that the current tensions between East and West may well loom large in my insurers' minds. But has it occurred to them, I wonder, that if my spectacles were to be destroyed in a nuclear attack, I would scarcely be in a position to make a claim?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY K. FLYNN,
23 Belgrave Gardens,
St John's Wood, NW8,
February 3.

Complete washout

From Mrs Fanny Freuen-Laton

Sir, Most dry-cleaners and laundresses (report, February 1), do such an abysmal job that I, for one, clothe and bed my household in all that is washable and druggable-dry at home.

Yours faithfully,
F. FREUEN-LATON,
65 Arlington Road, NW1,
February 1.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Labour law:
cooperation not
confrontation,
page 19

LEICESTER...
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high production
Call John Brown
0533 548922
Ext 6760

Stock markets
FT Index 447.8, up 2.1
FT Gilt 65.69, down 0.12

Sterling
\$2.2905, up 1 cent
Index 72.5, up 0.2

Dollar
Index 85.1, down 0.1

Gold
\$685.5, up 18

Money
3 mth sterling 17 1/2%
3 mth Euro-S 14 1/2%
6 mth Euro-S 14 1/2%

IN BRIEF

Decca will discuss GEC offer today

The Decca board meets today to consider GEC's £82.5m counter-offer to Racal. No immediate announcement seems likely, while Racal too is biding its time before responding to GEC's move.

Decca ordinary shares slipped 7p to 480p and Racal's rose 10p to 374p yesterday but they are still well above the value of the Racal terms.

Racal, whose shares dipped 7p to 235p as well, has not been able to buy in the market since just before GEC announced its intervention last Friday.

Jobbers report very little loose stock around after Racal's steady buying last week. Racal currently controls almost 7 per cent of the ordinary Decca shares and 9 per cent of the non-voting "A" shares.

Iran funds write

Some 100 suits have been filed in United States courts seeking to attach about \$3,000m (£1.327m) of Iranian funds, says Mr Robert H. Mundean, General Counsel for the United States Treasury, in New York.

£80m Spacelab deal

The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration has signed a contract worth almost £80m (about \$80m) with the European Space Agency for the construction of a second Spacelab scientific laboratory to be carried on board a space shuttle vehicle.

Hotel systems on offer

Computer systems developed for use within the Grand Metropolitan Hotels group particularly the reservation system known as Caspar, are to be marketed to outside customers by Grand Metropolitan Systems, Uxbridge, Middlesex, it was announced yesterday.

Tootal closes 7 plants

Tootal, is closing its five Northamptonshire-based clothing factories with a total of 614 redundancies as a result of the current recession in United Kingdom textiles. It is also closing two of its shirt factories at Brixton and Walthamstow, London, with 170 redundancies.

600 redundancies

Nearly 600 jobs are expected to be lost in a shock proposal to close a giant coking plant at Manvers, near Mexborough, south Yorkshire. The plant is owned by National Smokeless Fuels, a subsidiary of the Coal Board.

Expulsion decision

The Stock Exchange Council will today announce whether it agrees with a recommendation of its disciplinary committee that Mr Terence Webber, the former head of Heddewick, who was expelled from the department by the City of London, be expelled from the Stock Exchange. Other Heddewick members also face disciplinary action.

Marathon agree

Marathon has paved the way for a smooth transition by agreeing to takeover terms offered by Union Industrial Enterprise of Chateaufort, who are expected to take control of the Clydebank rig-building yard before the end of the month.

UK given limited approval by EEC to restrict imports of American fibres

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 5

Britain was given limited approval by its European partners today to introduce measures to curb the inflow of cheap synthetic fibres from the United States.

Although the European Commission found that the problem of American fibre imports was not community-wide, it accepted that there was a regional problem in the case of the United Kingdom.

Under community rules, Britain can now either seek Commission approval for regional measures to curb imports, or the Government can take appropriate action of its own in anticipation of formal Commission approval afterwards.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said he would report the results of today's meeting of EEC trade ministers to the House of Commons on Friday. Observers in Brussels expect he will use the occasion to announce measures against United States fibres imports.

Mr Nott's statement will be anxiously awaited by the United Kingdom textile industry, said Mr Leonard Regan, president of the British Textile Confederation.

"These man-made fibres and downstream textile products from the United States are imported here at disruptive low prices and in rapidly rising quantities, owing largely to America's dual energy pricing policy, which is recognized

throughout the world as unfair and discriminatory," he said. "Many jobs have been lost in Britain and thousands more are at risk, together with huge amounts of capital investment, in the man-made fibres industry and in companies producing goods such as carpets, bedlinen and fabrics containing man-made fibres."

"Facing with this latest failure to agree EEC measures, immediate action by the United Kingdom Government is essential."

Mr Nott, in what was thought to be a reference to imports of polyester fibre, told today's meeting that the British market share of one United States product had increased from 3.9 per cent in 1977 to 26 per cent in the final quarter of last year. He underlined that American imports were damaging the synthetic fibre industry in Northern Ireland.

The meeting of EEC trade ministers was reported to be a brief and low-key affair. The European Commission is trying hard not to provoke a trade war with the United States.

By putting the synthetic fibres issue back to the British Parliament, it is attempting to maintain its free trade credentials with the administration in Washington in the hope that the American government can withstand pressures from its steel industry for protectionist action that would badly hit European steel exports to the United States.

Joint action needed, page 18

Poor outlook for business reflected in survey

By Patricia Tisdall
Manufacturing Correspondent

Manufacturing industry is sliding deeper into recession and the outlook is even gloomier according to the Confederation of British Industry's quarterly survey of trends yesterday. But the downturn has received less acceleration from the steel strike than expected.

Business confidence already low in the survey made in October has taken a further knock. The survey covers nearly 2,000 companies and 50 per cent reported that they are less optimistic about general business prospects in their own industries than they were four months ago. In October the figure was 57 per cent.

Commenting on the results in relation to the steel strike,

Sir John Methven, the CBI's director general, said that "the gloom has plateaued a bit. We had expected that trade and industry would be in very serious difficulties by the end of January but it looks as though the gloom has plateaued a bit."

Further falls in employment are expected. The survey shows that 40 per cent of companies have shed labour during the last four months while 42 per cent expect to have fewer workers by late spring.

Industries most affected are those producing ferrous metals, shipbuilding and marine engineering, man-made fibre production and agricultural machinery, although the trend towards lower employment is discernible in almost all industries.

There is continued deep concern about export price competitiveness.

Companies are also expected to cut back on expenditure both on stocks and fixed investment because of falling demand and the deteriorating cash flow in industry.

Current stocks continue high with 80 per cent of companies assessing their finished stocks as "adequate" or "more than adequate", compared with 73 per cent in October and 70 per cent in July.

But stocks of raw materials and components have dropped slightly from the high levels reported earlier and are expected to fall further in the next few months.

Although there was considerable stockpiling in anticipation of the steel strike there was

also some involuntary stock-building due to sluggish demand.

The decline in volume of total new orders has grown no worse since October but a greater reduction in demand is expected. Thirty-six per cent of firms expect a drop in new orders in the next four months, compared with 31 per cent in the preceding survey.

Of the broad industry groups, the textiles sector reports the greatest fall in demand in the last quarter while electronic goods are the most buoyant. Nearly 10 per cent of companies have more than six months assured production in terms of orders on hand. The figure was the same in October and 12 per cent in July.

Sir Raymond Pennock, chairman of the CBI's economic

situation committee, said that considering the tough conditions industry "has stood up fairly well and certainly not panicked in anyway."

He said it was a sad reflection on how manufacturers had become used to preparing for strikes and had learned to live with them. Out of the last five quarterly surveys three had been made during major industrial disputes.

Investment in building and machinery is expected to continue to slide. The proportion of industrialists who expect to authorize less capital expenditure on buildings in the coming year than in the last 12 months has risen from 10 to 11 per cent. The number of those who expect to spend more has dropped from 17 per cent to 12 per cent.

Jobbers win access to overseas markets

By Peter Wainwright

Jobbers who feared that the proposed Stock Exchange Council in yesterday's debate would fudge the issue of giving them wider access to markets overseas were feeling relieved last night.

The council, which simply conceded the principle of "clearer contact" at its meeting on December 4, has now decided to issue revised rules in the next day or two.

These rules will need confirming in six weeks after member firms have been consulted. It was worried that the night would be a long one for jobbers who will be given wider access to members of stock exchanges abroad.

These members will include banks inside the European Community operating in their country of origin. The rules will also define more clearly brokers' business as principals.

Normally the council gives members a fortnight to discuss proposed rules before confirming them. This time was conceded this time is seen as "reflecting the controversial nature of the discussion".

Jobbers were quick to play down the scope of the concession. One firm said it will not lead to a speedy large increase in overseas business, adding: "In practice, it will be less than half a loaf."

However a council member whose firm does a useful overseas business confessed that he was worried. Brokers, he pointed out, must charge foreign clients appropriate rates of commission, but jobbers could offer them a cheaper service.

Some members could see no need for haste in reorganizing the stock market when it could be up to five years before they have to do so.



Prince Charles arrives at the British Institute of Management headquarters in central London yesterday to spend a day talking to middle managers as part of his programme to learn more about industry. He is flanked by Mr Leslie Tolley (left), the BIM chairman, and Mr Roy Close, the organization's director general. The Prince,

who made a controversial speech last year criticizing management or lack of communication with workers, spent his time at Management House yesterday talking to marketing and production managers as well as those involved with employee relations. Last week he visited the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Pound again in strong demand

The pound was in strong demand again yesterday on foreign exchange markets. Sterling rose by half a cent to close at 2290.5 against the dollar, and jumped by 0.2 points against an average of currencies to reach 72.5 per cent of its end-1971 value, its highest level since last summer.

Funds have been drawn into London over recent weeks because of the high interest rates and because of North Sea Oil. Although the Government is committed to a freely floating pound, the Bank of England's smoothing operations in the last two months have led to a sizable rise in the pound's value.

Yesterday's banking figures did not upset the currency markets because they merely confirmed the view that interest rates would remain high.

It has been official policy since the beginning of 1977 to phase out the use of sterling to reserve currency. The Bank of England discourages other governments from holding pounds as part of their official holdings of foreign currency.

Yesterday a British banker called for a greater international role for sterling. Mr John Forsyth, of Morgan Grenfell merchant bankers, said that a reserve role for the pound should go hand in hand with the open capital markets in London.

He commented that there had not been a significant reduction in the share of reserves held in pounds over the last three years. This had gone from about 21 per cent of total currency reserves to about 2 per cent. The big drop had come earlier. In the early 1960s the pound accounted for about 35 per cent of world reserves.

Mr Forsyth added that the North Sea oil was now exerting a strong upward pressure on the pound, which created problems for British industry.

Japan to resume Euro lending

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

Japanese commercial banks are expected to resume lending in the Eurocurrency markets from April. According to reports in Tokyo, the Japanese monetary authorities will lift the ban on Japanese banks participating in syndicated dollar loans to non-residents in an attempt to make it easier for them to handle the recycling of the Opec surplus. This is estimated to be more than \$100,000m (about £50,000m) this year and, as a result of the concern in some Opec countries about depositing funds in United States banks after the freeze on Iranian assets, Japanese banks could well secure a larger share of Opec oil money.

The Japanese Finance

Ministry prohibited the 20 or so commercial banks' activities in the Eurocurrency market last October because of its concern that Japanese banks were too competitive in their lending rates and worried that they tended to lend to high-risk country borrowers.

Japanese banks have acquired a reputation in international banking markets for offering very liberal lending terms in the Eurocurrency business with their participation in several loans, especially to French public utilities—one of the factors behind the narrowing of margins to 1 per cent and a lengthening of maturities over the last two years.

The Japanese authorities have now apparently heeded the warnings of the banks involved in the syndicated lending business. The suggestion is that quanti-

tative controls will be applied to their loans with total quotas to be fixed at around a half the level of their lending before last October's ban, which ran at \$1,000m (about £500m) a month.

The move comes at a poor time for the Eurocredit market generally, where bankers had just managed to start improving the terms for loans. The influx of a sizeable lending capacity from Japan, it is feared, could upset the balance of the market since the Iranian crisis threw some doubt over the syndicated loans generally.

The latest relaxation is unlikely to be accompanied by any easing of yen lending to foreigners, which is closely controlled by the Bank of Japan to protect the country's balance of payments.

Government doubts on economic forecast

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's forthcoming White Paper on public spending will probably contain very little economic detail. This would be a reversal of the trend of recent years towards providing more economic background to public spending plans and putting the programmes in the context of the whole economy.

Such detail of the medium-term prospects for the economy as the Government decides to publish will probably come with the financial statement accompanying the Budget about a week after the spending White Paper. The government has not yet decided how much it wishes to publish of its views of the medium-term outlook.

Early ministerial enthusiasm for publishing a medium-term financial plan, outlining the money supply targets and other financial elements in the economy, has evaporated to some extent. A final decision on this has not yet been taken. Views differ among Treasury ministers about the wisdom of such a plan. The Financial Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, has been strongly in favour of publishing one and believes it would help to build confidence in the Government's commitment to reduce inflation.

However, Mr John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and a Cabinet mem-

ber, is sceptical about the value of such a plan. He does not believe that the Government can make accurate forecasts of the economy and feels that publishing a plan based on inaccurate predictions is pointless.

Mr Terry Burns, the Government's new chief economic adviser, was a keen advocate of a medium-term financial plan while outside the Government and apparently he continued to press for one since taking up his Treasury job at the beginning of the year.

Mr Burns has spent some time looking at the medium-term forecasting done in the Treasury and is now drawing up a document to show how such a financial plan might look. It remains to be seen whether he can convince the Chancellor and the Prime Minister that they should publish one.

Ministers seem to have been put off the idea of such a plan partly because of the gloomy prognosis for the economy for the next few years. North Sea oil revenues are not expected to begin to ease the Government's financial constraints in a big way until 1982-83.

Short-term forecasts for the economy will be published as usual with the Budget. These will show a sharp drop in output this year.

Norton loses 'royalties' case against Meriden

The Meriden motorcycle co-operative yesterday won a High Court battle in London over the amount it has to pay for the right to manufacture Triumph motorcycles.

Norton Villiers Triumph had claimed that the co-operative—Triumph Motorcycles (Meriden) Ltd—should have paid them £55,447—1 per cent of the co-operative's sales of which only £26,514 had been paid.

But Mr Justice Lloyd ruled that, under agreements between the companies, the co-operative had to pay less than half of the price of the sale prices of the machines.

He upheld the co-operative's contention that the sum paid represented its total obligation between January 1 and June 30, 1979, and dismissed NVT's action, with costs.

£260m bid snag

Imperial Group's £260m bid for the United States hotel and restaurant group Howard Johnson has run into a baffling hitch. The California Beer Wholesalers Association is petitioning against the liquor licence granted to Imperial by the Californian authorities.

Aid scheme for Scots companies

By Ronald Faux

A scheme for the strong to help the struggling in Scottish industry was announced yesterday in Glasgow by Mr Robin Duthie, the recently-appointed chairman of the Scottish Development Agency. Making his first appearance as chairman at a press conference, Mr Duthie said that a register of leading companies prepared to help rescue others in trouble was being compiled by the agency.

He said the next 18 months would be extremely difficult for industry. There would inevitably be some casualties when interest rates were high and the steel strike started to bite. Some companies with a reasonable business might feel in with big brother to help them over such a period. He hoped to see good well managed companies strong in their own right prepared to take on this challenge.

The agency will be able to produce a financial package which would help both sides.

Mr Duthie said some companies in trouble had approached the agency too late for help—when the receiver was at the door. In cases where a company collapsed there were no assets to liquidate, he said, that could be picked up and made viable and profitable, provided the right management expertise was called on.

Mr Duthie had already sounded out the scheme and believed there were companies in Scotland willing to help.

The agency's investment portfolio is being transferred to a holding company known within the agency as Scorhold, which will distinguish the SDA investment activity from its other functions of industrial promotion and land renewal.

The SDA announced six company investments totalling more than £800,000. These would create almost 200 new jobs and support a further 700 as a result of loans and shareholdings in businesses ranging from engineering to yarn spinning.

Machine tool industry fighting for recovery

By Edward Townsend

Britain's machine tool industry is fighting a rear-guard action to show the world that it can defeat foreign competition. It provides manufacturing industry with the most up-to-date high technology equipment.

This is the message from Mr John Halbert, president of the United Kingdom's Machine Tool Trades Association, who said yesterday: "Of one thing I am certain, it is its ability to talk ourselves out of a recession as it is to talk ourselves into one. And the sooner the world starts doing more of the former and less of the latter, the sooner economic growth will return."

Mr Halbert said that if there was going to be an economic upturn in 1982, then it will be those countries and those companies that start their investment programmes now that will take the lead and enjoy success and prosperity in the latter half of the 1980s.

Mr Halbert was speaking against the background of a decline in machine tool sales which has resulted in the United Kingdom industry suffering a deficit of overseas trade for the first time last year. But machine tool industry leaders are predicting that its sales for 1980 will match last year's £550m and that the deficit will be wiped out.

Domestic machine tool manufacturers will be exhibiting at the MTEA's Mach 80 international exhibition at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre in April and Mr Halbert said it provided the United Kingdom industry with an opportunity "to alter the course of history".

Machine tool makers were investing about £100m, of which 60 per cent came from British producers in machines and £10m to promote their products at Mach 80.

The exhibition will be the largest machine tool display ever staged in the United Kingdom with 1,000 companies from 40 countries taking part.

Turning to the effects of the steel strike, Mr Halbert said that in general the industry had stocks for about five weeks but if the strike were to extend beyond that the effect on the credibility of British industry overseas could prove catastrophic.

Baggeridge Brick Company Limited

The Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of Baggeridge Brick Company Limited was held on February 5, 1980, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. The following are extracts from the statement by the Chairman, The Hon. P. A. Ward, circulated with the Report and Accounts.

I have pleasure in reporting record results for the year ended 30 September, 1979. The profits before tax totalled £571,648. Last year they were £325,123. It will be seen from the Report of the Directors that in accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Standards Committee there has been a change in the treatment of deferred taxation. Due primarily to the effect of capital expenditure in the year on kilns, plant and machinery of £701,368, compared with £126,774 last year, there is a low charge for taxation and the profits after taxation amount to £502,821 compared with £137,010.

Your Directors recommend that a final dividend be paid of 10% making with the 5% interim paid on 7 August, 1979, a total of 15%. Last year the total dividend was 10.4285%.

There was an increasing demand for the Company's products and sales improved as the year progressed. The policy of producing best quality non-porofired engineering and facing bricks from our excellent extruded marls has enabled a countrywide market to be developed.

The works improvements at Sedgley, to which I referred in my last year's statement, have been entirely successful. The reconstruction scheme at Kingsbury is now well under way and at this works all kilns are being replaced by new ones which have been specially designed to achieve a high fuel efficiency. Improved methods of production are being introduced and the scheme is planned for completion well before the end of the year. The full benefits of this will not be realised until the year 1980/81.

It is not possible to make a realistic forecast of prospects for the coming year as so much depends on an improvement in the national economic situation. The measures introduced by the Government to bring inflation under control will not, in the short term, be helpful to the building and construction industries. If they persist, high interest rates are likely to bring about a slow down in house building. This would affect the demand for our Harlebury bricks which are mainly supplied to this market. There have been substantial increases in the price of fuel in the latter half of 1979 and further very substantial rises have been notified and will be payable in 1980.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Barlow Rand	25p to 42p	Leeds	12c to 230c		
Braham Millar	2p to 17p	Massey-Ferguson	43p to 475p		
Cons Gold Fields	13p to 492p	Saddle Wits	37p to 430p		
Cons Gold	20c to 55c	Sanger J. E.	2p to 13p		
Bawtin	1p to 14p	Transtel	8p to 85p		

Falls					
Leumi Israel	2p to 9p	Phicom	4p to 25p		
East Daga	18c to 170c	Southeby P. E.	35c to 690c		
Grosvonts	35c to 610c	SA Land	12p to 495p		
Howard & Wynd	1p to 11p	W. Rand Cons	15c to 705c		
Marvale Cons	25c to 330c				

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank		Bank	Bank
	buys	sells		buys	sells
Australia \$	2.12	2.05	Netherlands Gld	11.60	11.10
Austria Sch	30.00	28.90	Norway Kr	11.60	11.20
Belgium Fr	65.50	65.00	Portugal Esc	1.95	1.80
Canada \$	12.93	12.38	Spain Ptas	157.25	150.25
Denmark Kr	8.80	8.40	Sweden Kr	9.84	9.44
Finland Mk	9.62	9.35	Switzerland Fr	2.34	2.28
France Fr	4.17	4.00	USA \$	52.00	48.00
Germany Dr	35.50	34.00	Yugoslavia Dnr	1.11	1.07
Greece Dr	1.11	1.07			
Hongkong \$	1.11	1.07			
India Rupee	1.11	1.07			
Italy Lira	575.00	548.00			
Japan Yen	575.00	548.00			

Directors prefer not to accept lower pay rises despite Tory tax cuts

No room at the top for wage restraint

Any lingering doubts by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that bosses would not want any more money after his hand-outs to the higher paid in the last Budget are way off beam, according to Keyser Ullman's newly published report on directors' remuneration.

Discussions with more than 100 companies produced one clear message: board members will receive increases this year which in percentage terms will be at least equal those received by their subordinates.

A very snuffly note crept into the report as the top should be held back due to the benefits gained from the income tax

changes found very little acceptance.

One can see all the directors interviewed nodding their heads when it was pointed out that, after all, "salaries had not in the past been increased, when tax rates rose, to compensate for tax changes".

On a more rigorous note the report said: "Increased after-tax differentials were now needed to ensure that individuals would accept additional responsibilities or promotion."

But the reduced higher tax rates—the top rate, pushed from 75 to 60 per cent—has made some differences. In the past it was perks, perks and more perks as bosses found it

so unrewarding to give themselves cash increases.

But Keyser Ullman found that in 1980 companies would be concentrating on getting the cash remuneration of their top team correct. Benefits in kind "would not be ignored", but there seemed to be a doubt that hard cash would be preferred.

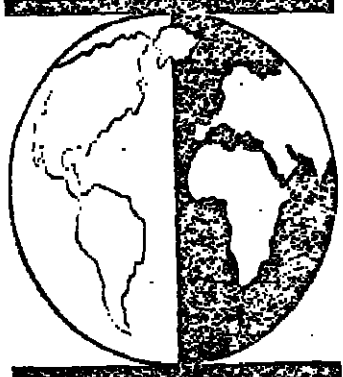
To get the richest pickings, however, it pays to be the chairman and chief executive rolled into one. The chief executive who reports to himself is "generally better paid" than the chief executive reporting to a part-time chairman.

And, with an eye still on the main chance, those in pursuit of the highest rewards should

move into manufacturing, rather than the retail or service industries. Making things, it appears, is "significantly" better paid than selling them—at the director level anyway.

However, this particular distinction does not persist when it comes to the individual responsibilities within companies. Finance and sales or marketing directors tend to be better rewarded than the rest of their colleagues, while poor old production tends to be the least well rewarded function and is not always represented at board level.

Margaret Stone



IRI Group has debts of £13,300m

The Italian state-owned IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) group has debts of £13,300m, or about £13,300m, and has virtually reached the limit of its borrowing capacity, according to a report by the chairman, said in Rome.

Liquidity requirements last year of 3,500,000 lire were entirely met by new debts, he told a hearing before a Parliamentary commission. Appealing for urgent government aid, he said it was necessary to "restore IRI's financial credibility through an adequate and immediate intervention". Other "all efforts under way in the group to reorganise companies and improve productivity would be in vain."

The group employs over half a million people in manufacturing industry, services and banking.

Car dumping denied

Toyota Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co have dismissed as "groundless" a charge by Mr David Roderick, the United States Steel Corporation chairman, that Japan was selling cars on the United States market at between 18 and 20 per cent lower than Japanese domestic prices.

US looks to Asia

Big United States investment in Asia during the 1980s has been forecast in Hongkong by Mr John Torelli, vice-chairman of Manufacturers Hanover Corporation. He described Asia as a region of enormous potential for trade and finance.

More China oil

Experts attending a recent meeting in south China's Guangdong province say preliminary exploration of the northern Continental Shelf of the South China Sea indicates the presence of rich oil deposits, the New China News Agency reports from Peking.

Nissan talks admitted

Sgr Ettore Massaccesi, the Alfa Romeo SPA chairman, has confirmed to union leaders in Milan that Alfa is in contact with Nissan Motor Company of Japan about a possible cooperation agreement, but added there is nothing definite yet to report.

Polyester cutback

Monsanto Textiles reports in St Louis it has cut back production of polyester filament substantially at its Fayetteville, North Carolina plant, from February 1. High inventories are given as the reason.

Oil price rises pose renewed challenge of recycling Opec's surpluses

Search for Euromarket controls

History has little respect for the working routines of committees.

The explosion of Opec's surplus position as a result of oil price rises of 1979 and the Iranian and Afghanistan crisis have overtaken the deliberations of the groups set up under the auspices of the Bank for International Settlements to look into the possibilities of more information and more control over the Euromarkets.

The work, which started seriously last year after Mr William Miller, as chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, called for minimum reserve requirements on Eurobanks to regulate the growth of their lending, had already been falling behind schedule. According to European central bank officials progress now appears to be even more dilatory for fear of upsetting the market. But in days to come, it appears there will be more interest in the introduction of controls at least a prudent nature.

Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, emphasized earlier this week the importance of controls on international banking. Britain has now started to collect figures on the country risk exposure of banks. Minimum reserve requirements as suggested by Mr Miller are the very last thing that the Eurobanks need at present.

The markers are again facing the huge task of recycling Opec surpluses that have

been estimated at around \$100,000m a year for the next four years.

To impose a minimum reserve requirement on the Eurobanks would be to impose a tax on their operations at a time when many are not in a good position to shoulder such a burden and when it would be reasonable to expect the banks themselves to be adopting more cautious lending policies in their own self-interest.

Prudential controls, on the other hand, would not act as a tax on the banks and could be employed in such a way as to encourage banks to build up their own capital.

One step would be to introduce tougher minimum ratios between a bank's capital resources and lending. To be effective the measures taken by individual host countries would have to be coordinated internationally or anchored in a general agreement to introduce consolidated balance sheets for international banks.

Some monetary authorities are moving towards such policies. The West German finance ministry, for example, has plans to oblige banks to consolidate their foreign subsidiaries and so bring them in the scope of Germany's strict capital to lending ratios.

The Luxembourg banking authorities are also thought to be considering a tightening of capital to lending ratios to around 3.8 per cent from 3 per cent at present.

But to avoid competitive imbalances in international banking business, such measures would have to be coordinated with regulations in other financial centres. The banks operating on the international markets tend to be looking elsewhere for solutions.

Recently there have been calls for action on recycling with participation of international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and individual Western central banks and governments.

But here they are running against the fear that most Western governments and monetary authorities have of a reserve currency role for their currencies, a fear that in part explains the enthusiasm shown for the planned substitution account at the IMF.

But even countries such as Switzerland and West Germany are coming to accept that a reserve currency role is unavoidable. Accordingly the years of Opec surplus are likely to see a controlled internationalization of currencies like the Swiss franc and Deutsche mark.

An outstanding question is whether the Opec countries themselves can be persuaded to carry some of the responsibility for recycling beyond aid increases already decided.

Peter Norman
in Brussels

Productivity aim for shipbuilders

Prospects for shipbuilding are beginning to improve, but a significant change in the market for new ships is at least two years away, according to British Shipbuilders.

The loss making state shipbuilding corporation gave a warning the improvement depended on there being no setbacks internationally and stressed that the end of the recession was not yet in sight.

British Shipbuilders, which is faced with intense competition for the few orders that are being placed, is heavily dependent on the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund for subsidies.

In a survey of the British shipbuilding industry, the corporation stated: "There is still a big gap between world supply and demand for new tonnage, and British Shipbuilders continues to fight for survival."

The corporation is aiming to lift productivity per man by 82 per cent by 1982-83 compared with the average for the 1973-77 period. In 1977, it had a productivity level of 15 compensated gross registered tonnes (cgrt) per man year. But a level of productivity equivalent to 18 cgrt per man year would be required to put the corporation on a competitive level with German, French and Dutch shipyards.

British Shipbuilders received orders in the final three months of last year for ten ships totalling 180,610 tons gross, the best since the second quarter of 1977. Throughout last year, a total of 29 merchant ships were ordered totalling 313,487 tons gross, valued at £253 million, compared with only 17 ships of 86,588 tons gross the previous year.

UK home electronics industry 'needs respite from cheap imports'

By Bill Johnstone

The Government has consistently failed at EEC level to discourage West Germany and the Irish Republic from diverting consumer electronic goods into Britain, especially those from Taiwan, according to the working party of the National Economic Development Council.

Its report published today emphasizes the growing presence of overseas manufacturers in the field of consumer electronics. Their products, although worth £787m a year in the United Kingdom, contribute to an annual deficit of £242m.

The report says that "for the next four years at least the industry needs a respite from low wage cost competition from the Far East while it reorganizes itself".

Constraints preventing British produce from having a greater prominence in the market were quality, price and availability of British-made components.

The findings came from a study commissioned by the working party on international production costs associated with the manufacture of electronic consumer goods in the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea and West Germany.

Korean and Japanese production costs were found to be considerably lower than those of Britain and Germany in the manufacture of colour television sets, both in labour and materials, despite high wages in Japan.

The supplier who can sustain a prominent place in the field of television, both black and white and colour, will command

the most lucrative proportion of the consumer electronics market, the report says.

It points out that Japanese imports of colour televisions have been restricted because of the patent held by the Germans, who have controlled the import penetration into Europe.

The Japanese have concentrated on the expanding black and white market, particularly with small portable televisions. But the respite in the colour television field will not last since the protection under the patent is soon to expire.

The working party is confident that voluntary restraint agreements covering imports from Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Korea can work if they are observed by all members of the EEC.

"Loopholes must be plugged. It is no use being protected against direct imports if goods can come in via a fellow EEC member," the report says.

Despite the disappearance of the PAL licensing system and a fall in television rental business, the working party is optimistic. It foresees benefits if the Japanese can be encouraged to bring their technology to the United Kingdom, enhancing Britain's chances of cornering part of the new home electronics market.

A prominent position in that market can be achieved but "there must be some United Kingdom development of the home electronics systems of the future if the present unhappy state of affairs is not to be perpetuated".

Tough steps needed to protect textiles

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Strong measures will be required to ensure that Britain's textile and clothing industries survive as major suppliers to the domestic market, and, faced with a period of retrenchment this year, the strengthening of links between manufacturers and retailers will be vital.

This is the central conclusion of a high-level panel of retailers, manufacturers and trade unions set up under the aegis of the National Economic Development Office to reinforce the ability of the United Kingdom clothing industry to supply the home market on commercially realistic terms.

The latest report by the Joint Textile Committee's Manufacturer/Retailer Panel published yesterday is a timely reminder of the threat posed to employment in the industry from the continuing inflow of cheap imports of key items, against the background of the industry's demand for the Government to adopt a tougher approach through the EEC.

The committee has sought, through a series of meetings and occasional exhortations to reverse the trend which has led retailers to place orders in low-cost countries for large volume merchandise which has a fairly predictable demand.

These include knitted shirts, jerseys and pullovers, woven trousers and jeans, blouses and men's and boys' woven shirts. As a result, the United Kingdom manufacturers have found themselves with an increasing proportion of their business directed towards supplying awkward, or short lead-time retail requirements or repeats. Costs have risen steeply and in some sectors many companies have gone out of business.

Although over the four years 1974-78 the clothing industry doubled its exports in real terms, these trends, coupled with the present unfavourable exchange rate have threatened the strengths necessary to export.

In its latest progress report the panel said the achievement of major substitution usually took between four or more seasons, and this year would be a year of retrenchment for the retail trade generally, while the clothing trade was expected to have one of the severest years ever experienced.

Since it was formed the panel has initiated a number of discussions between major retailers and manufacturers, and in the jeans and blouses sector there is clear evidence that a number of United Kingdom companies has increased capacity.

But a major problem has been how to indicate which retailers were genuinely seeking to increase the level of import substitution. A further problem has been that some of the areas identified by the panel as representing major import substitution opportunities through the working party's GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement—blouses, jeans and childrenswear do not appear to have materialized.

The panel stressed: "It remains true that a number of retailers wish to strengthen their United Kingdom supply base, and for this reason it is important for manufacturers to persist with in-depth exploration of retailers' requirements."

A number of major retailers, including British Home Stores, Littlewoods, Owen Owen and J. Hepworth & Son have been involved in building up their United Kingdom supplies, but most of the deals negotiated so far have been on a small scale.

The report noted: "In view of the effective support given to the overseas competitors of the United Kingdom garment and textile industries by other commercial systems and Government strong measures need taking if United Kingdom industries are to survive as major suppliers."

The country, the report said, needed to ask itself what would happen to the price and variety of garments, to employment and to the balance of payments if only 10 per cent instead of the 1978 level of 72 per cent of home demand by value were to be supplied domestically.

A number of major retailers, including British Home Stores, Littlewoods, Owen Owen and J. Hepworth & Son have been involved in building up their United Kingdom supplies, but most of the deals negotiated so far have been on a small scale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drilling programme needed to test Falklands oil potential

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP, Sir, Lord Shackleton's letter of January 14 in which Michael Frenchman is criticized for giving a misleading picture in his article "How much oil off the Falklands?" requires a reply.

It was Lord Shackleton himself who first aroused serious interest in the subject in his own comprehensive and valuable "Survey of the Falkland Islands" in 1976. Earlier there may have been doubts, Richard Frenchman, for example, revealed in his "Diaries" that the matter was discussed by the Cabinet on October 24, 1969—"Frankly, no one knows if there is any oil there or not, and, as I said, this may be an under-graduate idea, but the striking fact was that the Foreign Office said the only thing to do was to conceal the suggestion and prevent any testing".

Indeed, it was a cautious footnote in Lord Shackleton's survey that drew attention to the "Shetland Islands Geological Bulletin's estimate that the Falkland Islands area might yield up to nine times proven North Sea reserves."

Nobody gives undue credence to that estimate but the fact remains that the Falklands have considered it worthwhile recently to undertake expensive seismic and other surveys in the area, possibly because oil

prices now make exploration attractive.

What is needed now, more than ever because of the political instability in the Middle East, is conclusive evidence that hydrocarbon reserves exist in the Falklands. This can only be obtained by exploration and drilling in the offshore Falklands area which are now identified, as Lord Shackleton's letter implies, as being likely to bear oil.

It is not for me to say what is good for the Falkland Islanders, but I believe that any controlled exploration of resources could be beneficial to the community, particularly if oil companies could be persuaded to follow the precedent of BP's £4 million aid to the Shetland Islands. As Lord Shackleton states in his survey, there are suitable places in the Falkland Islands (which are two-thirds the size of Wales) for onshore bases which would not greatly disturb the 2,000 islands.

What is important surely is that the islanders, Britons like ourselves, should be consulted as to whether they would welcome such development. At present they are dependent on the import of food, which is subject to a capricious market. They might well conclude that their future would be better assured than it is at

present if oil development went ahead. Their other major resource, fish, is being exploited by the Comecon countries and by Japan in the absence of a coherent plan for a British fishery in the area. It is worth noting, as did Lord Shackleton's report, that the Falkland Islands are surrounded by the largest untapped source of protein in the world.

Lord Shackleton says in his letter that the basing of oil development activity on the islands must be the subject for a difficult and sensitive judgment. Agreed, but however difficult and sensitive I would submit that no judgment is possible without essential information. That information will only be made available from a drilling programme, possibly jointly conducted with Argentina but under the cover of British sovereignty.

I would hardly think that Mr Frenchman's interesting article would "unsettle" the Falkland Islanders. In my view, the resolution of this important issue, which has global implications, is as important to them as to our kin in this country. It is better that we all know what is going on.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons.
February 4.

Absurdity of cutting back S Wales coal production

From Dr Alan Williams

Sir, It is absurd that in a time of growing world energy shortage one half of the South Wales coalfield is being threatened with extinction.

The British Steel Corporation's closure plans and increased coking coal imports will destroy the market for one half of South Wales's coal production.

The EEC countries have all resisted coal imports by subsidizing domestic production. During 1978 West Germany spent £297 million on coking coal subsidies, equivalent to £12 a tonne; France spent £15 a tonne and Belgium £24 whilst in Britain the subsidy was barely £1 a tonne. The Wales TUC is asking for £10 tonne subsidy on coking coal.

The South Wales coalmines must remain open for other reasons also—those of world energy supply.

During the 1970s world oil prices have risen ten-fold, to a minimum of \$26 a barrel or equivalent in the coal industry. It is probable that during the 1980s oil prices will continue to rise substantially in real terms and this could be accompanied with and accelerated by limits to production imposed by the Middle East countries.

In this way the 1980s are destined to see a growing world energy shortage. The Government's planned expansion of the nuclear power programme will not produce any energy until the 1990s yet we have 20 pits in Wales threatened with closure that could produce energy throughout the 1980s.

ened with closure that could produce energy throughout the 1980s.

In a recent EEC document anticipated that the demand for coal within the Community will double by 2000. The countries where coal will be mined within the EEC will be the United Kingdom and Germany principally, with Britain supplying the most.

We would be the main producers because we have the best working seams of coal. During 1978-79 the average cost of British coal production was £24.10 a tonne, whilst in South Wales the higher quality coal cost £36.10 a tonne. Nevertheless this compares with an average cost of production in 1978 for West Germany of £40 a tonne, France £42 and Belgium £56. It makes no sense in European terms to close coalmines in South Wales without our closing all those on the Continent.

Europe needs and what the world needs is a rapid expansion of the coal industry.

The British people must not allow the fanatic monetarism of this Government to commit overkill in the coal industry at the same time devastating the mining industry and the economy of South Wales.

Yours faithfully,
DR ALAN WILLIAMS,
Cwmaber,
Allychap Road,
Carmarthen.
January 30.

Review of foreign trade urged

From Mr Derrick Wyatt

Sir, Mr C. Hyde's plea (January 31) that income tax relief be restricted to motor cars manufactured in the United Kingdom, and that foreign manufacturers be required to establish a factory in the United Kingdom if their exports to this country exceed a certain percentage of models sold, may have evoked a sympathetic response in many readers.

The fact is that Britain's manufacturing base is being eroded by the day. Many industries are long believed to be in a state of decline, such as those producing motor cycles, motor cars, steel, etc., would be matched by the birth of more sophisticated industries which our highly skilled (and re-trainable) workforce would man with enthusiasm. As the old does not appear to be happening, nor, I fear, will it. Is there not some logic in protectionism if the alternative is to exchange, say, volume car production, for, say, the production of fancy leather goods, or even more likely for unemployment?

But to return to Mr Hyde's original point, his proposal would fail of Article 30 of the EEC Treaty, if opposed to car imports from our EEC partners; and such imports of course account for the lion's share of foreign car exports to the United Kingdom. It is true that the Treaty contains safeguard clauses, under which Article 30 might be suspended, but such safeguard clauses are triggered by a deficit in the balance of payments. Unfortunately, returns from exports of north sea oil, disguise the yawning gap in our trade in manufactured goods.

I have long supported the EEC, and been sympathetic to the principle of international free trade. But blind faith cannot ever survive the lessons of experience. Is it not time to examine critically the foreign trade policy of this country? I would propose a Royal Commission on a United Kingdom Foreign Trade, its terms of reference to include a thorough review of the economic impact of EEC membership. Its findings would provide invaluable background to a debate which will surely pervade our political scene in coming years.

Yours sincerely,
DERICK WYATT,
St. Edmund Hall,
Oxford.

Proud of their profession

From Dr Clifford Butler

Sir, Although I cannot speak for every one of my engineering colleagues they do not appear to be less than properly proud of their profession in spite of Professor Kurri's assertion to the contrary (January 31). He is also, I fear, misinformed about the institutions which have not dropped technology from their title.

Cranfield Institute of Technology is not alone. Fifty miles further up the M1 Professor Kurri will find Loughborough University of Technology, an institution over which I am honoured to preside, a former college of advanced technology which retains its full title and fully intends to go on doing so.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD BUTLER,
Vice-Chancellor,
Loughborough University of Technology.
January 31.

The Times Special Reports

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مکان من الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Peering through the banking gloom

The Government has always maintained, and quite rightly, that its monetary policy would take time to work.

Credit demand would take some months to respond to real interest rates; and it would take appreciably longer for wage awards to respond to a fall in the real money supply. In that sense, while the financial markets may have got it right in believing that a 17 per cent MLR represented the top of the present interest rate cycle, one need have little sympathy with them for the way in which they subsequently tried to jump the gun in the expectation that 17 per cent MLR would prove short-lived.

Even so, the time when the Government's policy should be starting to produce some tangible results ought now to be in sight.

On the face of it, therefore, yesterday's figures from the London clearing banks, pointing to an underlying rise in demand in the January banking month of around £1,000m, is hardly reassuring, albeit that part at least will have represented switching from market to overdraft borrowing in the face of the sharp rise in the money market interest rates.

Are there, then, any straws to clutch at? Possibly. There do at last seem to be signs that personal sector loan demand is starting to subside, in which case involuntary stock-building by the corporate sector (and perhaps some precautionary stockbuilding ahead of the steel strike) may provide a reasonable interpretation of what has been happening.

If that is the case, then it may be that bank lending figures will start to improve over the next couple of months as stock-building by the manufacturing sector starts to gather pace. Certainly, they will need to if any Budget promise of lower interest rates is to mean with immediate effect rather than later this spring.

Small company audits

Maintaining the status quo

Arguments over the need to audit the accounts of small companies come to a head this week with a discussion at the council meeting of the English Institute today. The council is expected to be more or less evenly divided upon the subject.

If so, then the split will reflect the feeling of the interested parties none too accurately. For the odd thing about this debate has been, not how great the pressure is for retention of the audit requirement on all companies, but how slight the pressure is for its abolition.

The arguments for abolition are straightforward enough. First, that in the case of very small companies (sole traders and the like), the expense of audit is likely to be far greater than the benefit conferred—to shareholders, creditors, and other interested parties; second, that in the case of many of the rest, the systems audited anyway are likely to be so erratic that a clean audit certificate probably means little, and a plethora of dirty ones will bring the profession into disrepute; third, that the development of higher auditing standards for big companies is likely to be retarded if they must apply equally to the small.



Mr David Young, chairman of the Auditing Practices Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The arguments against amendment are equally clear cut: that creditors and outside shareholders, in particular, need the protection of an independent view on the financial health of the enterprise; that management often relies on the compulsory audit as an aid to "good housekeeping"; that the review proposed in lieu of the annual audit has most of its vices and none of its virtues; and last but not least, that abolition of the statutory requirement might put some small accountants out of business.

On the face of it the balance is pretty even. But there are two reasons for supposing that the anti-abolitionists will have their way. First, the possibility that small company accounts will be qualified by the dozen does not appear to be raising doubts in the minds of any users about the efficacy

of the system: rather the contrary, if the submissions of the likes of the Midlands Industry Group and the Accounts Users Group are any guide. And second, there is no real pressure for change from those who risk the ignominy of a qualification—and who pay the bill: small companies themselves.

Associated Fisheries Rewards of retrenchment

A return to profits at Associated Fisheries represents the rewards of retrenchment. Pre-tax profits of £2.2m against the previous year's loss of £2.4m reflect much reduced losses from trawling and a better performance from the land-based activities, including storage, transport and engineering. But the demise of the British fishing industry continues as the EEC debate on a common fisheries policy moves into its third year.

All of which leaves Associated performing a delicate balancing act under its new chairman, Mr Keane Fitzgerald, who is also chairman of 34.5 per cent shareholder Eastern Produce. The problem is: how far should Associated run-down its fleet to restore liquidity and risk being unable (in EEC Commissioners' eyes at least) to fulfil quota levels currently under discussion.

Over the year the fleet has dropped from 80 to 50 vessels and of these, 20 are laid up and a further 6 are performing oil-rig standby duties.

Ahead of the accounts, Associated will only say that disposals have been made at a little over scrap value, although the market, at least, is hoping for a significant improvement in a balance sheet which contained £7m of borrowings at the last year end.

Despite the return to the dividend lists—a full-year payment of 1p net—the shares up 1p to 56p are still speculative. Suggestions that net asset values could rise to around 160p a share on latest disposals could be a long way off-beam. But Associated has undoubtedly attracted some predatory glances in recent months, although Eastern Produce insists its interest is only as an investment.

Oil prices Betting on a fall

Declining spot prices on international oil markets should give the multinationals the chance to replenish some of their longer term contract supplies. All the multinationals have become short of crude for their refineries as sales at spot prices to independent and on government to government deals have cut traditional sources of supply, but as storage has filled to overflowing, and distressed selling of cargoes has emerged, producer governments have found it increasingly difficult to find buyers at substantially more than the official Opec member state selling price. The companies' technique must be to hold off from buying spot for as long as possible so that more and more distressed selling will come from independents no longer able even to finance the oil in storage or to risk further falls in the price. With little incentive for the producers to sell on spot, their intention must be to maintain their own official selling prices by cutting back production where necessary. In these circumstances company buyers are leaving for the Middle East to try and persuade producer governments to increase contract levels at government selling prices.

The effect will be, if anything, to lend support to the wave of official price increases following Saudi Arabia's move. Providing oil is sold on contract, the multinationals will be ready buyers. Long term access remains the name of the game, and until such time as the companies have more contract crude than they need as a result either of recession or increased production, they will be prepared to pay the new high prices to get it. The less easy it becomes for the Opec members to sell their production, the more chances of the multinationals to shop around and for some sort of sense to return to differentials between different quality crudes.

But as it is taking time for the crude taken away from the multinationals' long term contracts to re-emerge in the markets at reasonable prices, so it will take time for Opec price unity to be reimposed. In the meantime the backdating of the latest increases to January 1st will take much of the benefit of windfall stock profits, and the relatively low price of Aramco crude will continue to have the effect of depressing refinery margins for companies like Shell and BP, which are outside the consortium.

Since mid-1975 Argentina has been top of the world inflation league. The annual rates have varied between 150 and 400 per cent as measured by price rises. Now suddenly the figures for the last quarter of 1979 reflect an annual rate of 32 per cent in wholesale prices.

Supposing this is not a flash in the pan, how has the trick been achieved? The policy, first applied over a year ago, is not one previously tried in a developed economy though Chile, with a minuscule industry and 25 per cent unemployment, did successfully pilot a similar scheme to reduce its inflation from 300 to 30 per cent.

On the domestic front, prices are left to market forces where the private sector fixes them: the government does no more than monitor and chastise price rises which it considers excessive by facilitating the import of competitive products. Government fixed prices, which in Argentina include those for most transport, fuel, electricity and utilities, are set well in advance on a downward sliding scale of monthly increases.

Externally, except where inconvertible vested interests have intervened, the economic team has dismantled the protective tariff wall which surrounded Argentine industry, exposing it to foreign competition for the first time in recent history. This has been accompanied by a crawling peg devaluation against the dollar at a steadily decreasing rate which started off at 54 per cent a month, is now 3 per cent and is scheduled to reach zero by March 1981.

The intended effect is to squeeze the price rises of Argentina's agricultural exports, as beef, bread and wine are also the main components of the family budget, and to put the domestic market at a disadvantage to the manufacturer who raises his prices at a rate above that of devaluation.

Most remarkably, considering today's economic trends, no attempt is made at limiting the increase in money supply and pesos continue to be printed on a scale in the quietest of 1979 the currency in circulation increased by 48.5 per cent against 7.2 per cent for the wholesale price index.

Tony Emerson

Can Argentina make its anti-inflation policy stick?

Dr Martinez de Hoz, the Economy Minister: his policies have ensured huge support for the peso.



how highly it is valued against the dollar.

Thus during 1979 a devaluation of 60 per cent has been more than maintained against a rise in the wholesale price index of 123 per cent, for annual effective interest rates have averaged 125 per cent, giving investors a tax-free 40 per cent on their dollars. In theory they can then risk that the minister would break his word and devalue more than according to schedule, but so dependent is Dr Martinez de Hoz on the financial community's good-will that the only effective risk was of his being sacked.

The desired effect of the anti-inflation policy—the convergence between internal price rises and the devaluation of the currency—was slow in coming: on the one hand the first step was to intervene with a big rise in the international price of beef and cereals, and on the other hand importers of anything but luxury consumer goods do not intervene in the market since they needed time to organize distribution, after sales service and the like. Thus as internal prices continued to rise by their traditional 8 per cent a month, an already highly valued peso became even more expensive.

In dollars, Argentina is now the most expensive country in the world in which to live, industrialists run the risk of competing against imported products which an overvalued peso is dumping on the Argentine market (though importers' profiteering is a risk) and those farmers not used to record international prices cannot make ends meet—indeed the armed forces have insisted on government subsidies to the food producers, the strategically sensitive area of Patagonia.

Is this the prelude to a dramatic recession? Dr Martinez de Hoz's critics are unanimous in forecasting one. His supporters insist that any distortions will be corrected as sufficient firms are forced to sell out or give way to their competitors and the internal rate of inflation drops below the sum of the rate of devaluation and inflation in the rest of the world. If its supporters are right a new chapter will have to be added to text books on fighting inflation.

Dr José Alfredo Martínez de Hoz, the Minister of Economy, insists that his anti-inflation policy will succeed: the demand for pesos will be reduced and so automatically will the supply.

But his monetary policy is also the child of his political position—he is employed by the government of the armed forces, 90 per cent of his civilian support at home comes from the financial sector and the confidence of the international banking club in the Argentine economy has been virtually personalized in a vote of confidence for him.

When the armed forces took over the government in 1976 at the height of the subversive war, it was imperative for them to isolate the middle class guerrilla movement from working class support. So the overriding priority in their economic policy was not to let unemployment result from the chaos situation in which they took over the country: only a highly inflationary, easy money policy could achieve this, and unemployment never rose over 4 per cent. Although the

security problem is largely solved, it remains a military maxim that inflation is preferable to unemployment.

Latin American officers are also enthusiastic about public works projects, and many a general judges his achievements by the number of concrete and steel constructions (subsequently appallingly maintained) with which he has littered the country. No one denies the need for much of this public investment, but how much can a country with a gross national product the size of Denmark absorb without the government resorting to the printing machine either to finance it or to service the debt it has originated?

At the military takeover the central bank reserves were down to \$22m if Cuban promissory notes were included, and the internal financial resources amounted to only 6 per cent of gross domestic product. It was vital to resuscitate the financial system and the measures taken to do so have succeeded in that aim.

A high public sector borrowing requirement, helped by the

general under-capitalization of industry, has been used to maintain high interest rates. Interest paid on deposits in any licensed bank or financial entity has been tax-exempt and the deposit and interest guaranteed by the nation. Demand by the financial sector for pesos has been met by the central bank.

Since these measures took effect in 1977 there has been a stampede of depositors ranging from the housewife and pensioner to the multinational corporation.

The number of banks and finance houses of varying degrees of shadiness, for whom the difficulty of obtaining a licence may be compared to that of a casino operator in Britain, has meanwhile multiplied.

The effect on the economy as a whole is controversial since many blame the stagnation in growth over the past four years on the fact that it has been more worthwhile to play the financial game than to produce goods. But within the context of Dr Martinez de Hoz's anti-inflation policy, the attractions of the financial system ensure huge support for the peso no matter

Labour law: cooperation, not confrontation

The Government's proposals to extend the provisions covering secondary industrial action in the Employment Bill will be widely seen as a response to recent decisions by the House of Lords to overturn the Court of Appeal's judgments in last Friday's British Steel case (Dunlop Steels and Others v Sirs and Others) and in last December's case of Express Newspapers Ltd v MacShane. However, both the proposals themselves and, more important, the political assumptions about the nature of trade union power which underlie them, raise issues which go far beyond those which arose in the House of Lords judgments.

Although of less immediate political consequence, the MacShane judgment is the more significant as regards the legal immunity conferred upon secondary industrial action. The Court of Appeal had granted an injunction against a union order to "black" work because the blacking, although undoubtedly intended by the union official concerned to further a trade dispute, was nevertheless too far removed from the court's opinion from the dispute to "further it".

Lord Denning based his decision on the requirement that the action had in practice to further the dispute (which in his judgment it did not), while the other two judges in the Court of Appeal, Lord Bridge and Lord Wilberforce, based their decision by applying the slightly less stringent criterion of whether the act was "reasonably capable" of furthering the dispute.

The Lords, however, would have none of this. The majority of them said that the test of whether a person acted in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute was subjective, depending upon the official's state of mind, thus placing no limit upon what he might lawfully do, provided he honestly intended to further a trade dispute.

It would of course, be an easy matter to reverse the Lords ruling in the MacShane case by inserting a deeming



Lord Scarman (left) and Lord Denning: significant rulings in a controversial field.

provision into the 1974 Act so that an act should be regarded as in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute unless it is in practice reasonably capable of furthering the dispute; but, before contemplating such a modest amendment, it is prudent to consider why the Lords rejected even such a limited role for the law to play in industrial disputes.

Having given his judgment in the MacShane case, Lord Scarman went on to say: "I confess that I am relieved to find that the law does not require me to review the tactics of a party to a trade dispute and to determine whether in the view of the court the act was likely to further, or advance, that party's side of the dispute. . . . It would need very clear statutory language to persuade me that Parliament intended to allow the courts to do as some sort of backseat driver in trade disputes".

Nevertheless, the moderates in the Cabinet are thought to be considering a proposal which goes further even than the limits which Lord Denning sought to impose upon lawful industrial action. It is to be individuals participating in secondary action—and union officials giving the instructions—should be liable to be sued.

Attractive though this proposal may be to many interests in the community, there are serious reservations about whether it could be made to work. As Lord Scarman pointed out, there are grave jurisdictional difficulties, but these are mild in comparison with the foreseeable legal and industrial problems.

What reason is there to believe that the courts or union leaders will have the power or the means to restrain the possibly unofficial action of hundreds or thousands of individual members, and what guarantee is there against the overwhelming likelihood that damages or injunctions against individual members will not merely lead, as in the past, to an escalation of the original dispute?

Such doubts about their long-term effectiveness cause many people to abandon altogether the idea of pursuing legalistic "solutions" to industrial disputes. On the other hand, the more hawkish elements in the Cabinet have gone in the opposite direction and are believed to be canvassing the idea of removing the immunity from legal action of the trade unions themselves (as distinct from individual members or officials) in the belief that the law could then be effectively enforced by action for damages against union funds.

Union leaders and the country would then be confronted by a bleak choice. The first alternative would be for the unions to continue to play their existing role in directing and coordinating industrial relations affairs, with the consequence of eventual bankruptcy as their assets were sequestered and national stoppages as members sought to protect their organizations by means of means. The second alternative would be to abdicate their role as leaders and negotiators in industrial disputes, leaving members to take unofficial action and bequeathed employers wondering with whom they should negotiate.

Crucial to any understanding of the present debate about the Government's proposals for industrial law reform is a grasp of the conflicting theories of trade union power which underlie it. On the one hand is the orthodox "Donovan" view, which takes its name from the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations of 1965-68.

This analysis concludes that central trade union organizations are too weak, lacking the power and the resources to coordinate and direct in a progressive way the activities of groups of shopfloor workers led by their shop stewards. Interestingly enough, this was exactly the analysis of British Leyland's industrial relations difficulties proffered by Sir Michael Edwards in a television interview last Thursday.

On the other hand, there is the "overmighty" subject view, which holds bluntly that trade unions (as distinct from groups of members acting on their own initiative) have too much power, which ought to be curbed by whatever means are available.

These contrasting analyses affect directly the day-to-day management of industrial relations on such crucial questions as whether and with whom one should consult about changing working practices, redundancies between both sides of industry, the unions' cooperation, or whether management should, so far as is expedient, keep the unions in the dark and fight the fire as they break out in the form of disputes.

In the labour law context, adherents of the "overmighty" subject view will support measures designed to expose trade union leaders and trade union

funds to legal action in the belief that unions can thereby be obliged to convince their members to refrain from secondary industrial action and the like, while the Donovan believers will recognize that union leaders do not have the power, or only a very limited power, to dictate to groups of members contrary to their own designs.

One has also to consider the likely effect of enforcing legal sanctions against trade unions themselves or, alternatively, against individual groups of members. Most lawyers recognize that it is impractical to sue hundreds or thousands of individuals who take part in industrial action and most managements would acknowledge the devastating industrial relations consequences of so doing. The Donovan view, who takes the initiative for industrial action grows from the ground up also uphold the traditional absence of the law from industrial disputes.

By contrast, those who believe that many industrial disputes are fomented by the actions of officials against the better judgement of the rank and file can see a purpose in pursuing legal remedies against the unions themselves. Militant shop stewards may perhaps promote unnecessary strife, but the same be said of union officials and the committees of members who in practice direct the union's affairs?

They themselves do not need to be persuaded to the contrary. Most of their time is spent trying to conclude deals which will bring management and members together but, if there are leading industrialists and politicians who believe that such people are irretrievably now in the time to stand up and be counted. Likewise, those managers who believe that the future lies in patient, if at times hard-fought, cooperation between both sides of industry should also speak out before hawkish policies enforce a return to the trench warfare of years gone by.

Brian Capstick
This article represents the author's personal view. Mr Capstick is senior assistant legal officer of the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Business Diary: Two tiny ladies of Toy Town

Liverpool
They still tell the story here of the founder of a local engineering firm whose idea of rewarding long service was to give employees a little badge. The day duly came round when the founder himself was to retire, by which time a collection box was circulating on the shop floor, so that the founder's departure could be suitably commemorated.

When the box was opened, so they say, it was found to be full of little long-service badges.

Now, how you regard this gesture probably depends upon which side of the management-worker gulf—which sometimes seems to divide Merseyside as surely as does the Mersey River itself—your sympathies lie.

Whatever your sympathies, however, the point here seems to be that working people have a ready and individual response to what they see as high-handedness on the part of an employer.

This at any rate was what went through my mind yesterday as I wandered around the Bins Road factory of Meccano Limited. Meccano is the subsidiary of Ralph Eshman's Airfix, whose workers were being sitting in since they were made redundant three weeks before Christmas.

This is not the first and it

probably will not be the last. It is, however, a special case for Mrs Rosa Owens, who showed me round Meccano's child, dingy premises yesterday.

Mrs Owens, a General and Municipal Workers' Union shop steward, came to Meccano 20 years ago. It was her first job and unless the union-management joint committee come up with a suitable buyer for the firm, it could also be her last.

Half a century of service
Mrs Owens looks very much the part in her role as shop steward in a toy factory. She is four feet nine inches tall; her friend, Mrs Rose Hanley, who has been at Meccano for 22 years and is now the shop steward, is only half an inch taller.

They are nice ladies, for whom you would instinctively stand up for on the bus. Together they have given more than half a century of service to the firm, and the can remember only two strikes, last long before Airfix took over.

Yet when I asked one of this loyal pair to spell the name of one of the company's managers, she smiled sweetly and began to say "b-a-b-e" until I hurriedly chipped in with another and less contentious question.

Mrs Hanley told me that "it took me three weeks to get this job and 30 minutes to lose it".

On November 30 she had finished her 9 am to 3 pm shift as an assembler when the telephone rang at about 4.40 and she learnt that she was out of a job as from ten minutes before that.

Mrs Owens knew sooner—45 minutes before the 4.30 pm deadline for closure. She and other stewards were called into the office of Ray McNeice, the managing director, at about 3.45 to be told that the plant would close at 4.30 that day.

"We were speechless," said Mrs Owens, an Italian who has since regained her vocal powers. "By the time the stewards got back to their sections, supervisors were already handing out written notices to the 300 workers. More than half of these are women. Many a male sinner-in-suit, were already in tears. Two women collapsed."

"We were expecting bad news, big redundancies, but not closure and not in this way," Mrs Owens said.

A hurriedly improvised sit-in began that Friday evening. Management was refused entry on Monday morning and, after two months on, is still that.

"If we'd had our 90 days' notice, there would have been no need for all this," Mrs Owens said bitterly.

Yesterday the management and union committee met for the first time to discuss the sale of the plant. Last night the Wavertree constituency Labour Party was holding a rally in the works canteen.

The absence of notice and the bitterness it injected into the subsequent wrangle over redundancy terms means that Meccano workers are still unable to draw statutory unemployment pay. They have in apply for discretionary social security payments and not all get it.

State of the factory
About a third of the workers man the five-shift 24-hour sit-in. "We told the disabled not to join us, although they wanted to," Mrs Hanley said.

About one in 20 Meccano workers is disabled and it is

only out of consideration for them that the sitters-in do not have the factory producing. Mrs Owens told me: "We can't produce Meccano here, but we haven't got the insurance cover".

Fun though Meccano may be to play with it would not do to take to tasks in making it. The factory is a former Lord Roberts Memorial Workshop and looks little changed since Old Bobs was laid to rest.

It is freezing cold even though the gas and electricity are still on. The roof leaks from every conceivable spot, the floors run with water and box after box of Meccano's famous laminated strip lies rusting, never to be enrolled in bright reds, yellows and greens.

Much of the machinery would look good in a museum of industrial archaeology.

Even the pickets spend some time each day peeling potatoes for the daily hot meal (it's "scouse" at 12p a plate this week). "The potato peeler has packed up," Mrs Hanley said, "and we can't get another one. It's so antiquated the machine is out of production".

Of the water everywhere Mrs Hanley said: "It's always been like this. When it rained we used to bring wellies in with us because we had to mop up before we could start work".

It is a wretched uncomfortable place in which to work, let alone to idle, though the sitters-in do so cheerfully and politely for non-management visitors. The donations that help to maintain the hardship fund and to pay for the bus fares of sitters-in are slackening off, now that the steel strike has grabbed the headlines.

A say in their future
Mrs Owens and Mrs Hanley seem to have no interest in arrogating management's right to manage. They just seemed angry at not being consulted and determined from now on to have a say in their future. A banner over the entrance proclaims "Airfix'll fix it. They fixed us".

The Manty Python film Life of Brian is to scrape its way into Liverpool cinemas despite divisions within the council's licensing subcommittee. One councillor said: "I thought it was a bit on trade unions".

Ross Davies

VIBROPLANT HOLDINGS LIMITED

Business Plant Hire Specialists

INTERIM STATEMENT HALF YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER		
	1979	1978
Group Turnover	6,761,865	5,374,271
Unaudited Profit before Taxation	2,066,800	1,508,856
Corporation Tax 32%	1,074,736	831,405
Group Profit after Tax	992,064	767,451
Cost of Dividend (after waivers) Net	231,000	176,880

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 5.25p per share which together with the Associated Tax Credits equivalent to 7.5p per share (1978 6.0p per share). The Dividend is payable to those shareholders on the Register at the 21st February 1980 and will be paid on the 5th March 1980.

Registered Office—Prospect Road, Starbeck, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Gilts weaken but equities hold their ground

t fight was with Corner Radio Services in 1978 when the warehouse chairman, Mr Hollingbery, just missed gain-
rol of the TV rental group by a
with his £14m bid.

ness has some which is acknowledged as such. It is strongest in Sheffield, and in the pinch of the steel stocks, but from the going into households.

Names which have been mentioned that could fit the pattern are furniture group MFI or news to do-it-yourself concern W. H. Smith.


But Mr Morrell said: "We have had no takeover approaches", and said that the shares of the chairman and the group's president, Mr Henry Wigfall, who died just before Christmas, have not been sold.

"We can still muster 45 per cent of the equity if we need to", he said.

Philip Robinson

LET THE GLIM BE HIGH & DRY.

Really Dry Gin



Stock Exchange Prices

Early gains not held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8. Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 18

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Wood

plant and machinery valuers

1979-80			1978-9			1977-8			1976-7			1975-6			1974-5			1973-4			1972-3			1971-2			1970-1			1969-0			1968-9			1967-8			1966-7			1965-6			1964-5			1963-4			1962-3			1961-2			1960-1			1959-0			1958-9			1957-8			1956-7			1955-6			1954-5			1953-4			1952-3			1951-2			1950-1			1949-0			1948-9			1947-8			1946-7			1945-6			1944-5			1943-4			1942-3			1941-2			1940-1			1939-0			1938-9			1937-8			1936-7			1935-6			1934-5			1933-4			1932-3			1931-2			1930-1			1929-0			1928-9			1927-8			1926-7			1925-6			1924-5			1923-4			1922-3			1921-2			1920-1			1919-0			1918-9			1917-8			1916-7			1915-6			1914-5			1913-4			1912-3			1911-2			1910-1			1909-0			1908-9			1907-8			1906-7			1905-6			1904-5			1903-4			1902-3			1901-2			1900-1			1899-0			1898-9			1897-8			1896-7			1895-6			1894-5			1893-4			1892-3			1891-2			1890-1			1889-0			1888-9			1887-8			1886-7			1885-6			1884-5			1883-4			1882-3			1881-2			1880-1			1879-0			1878-9			1877-8			1876-7			1875-6			1874-5			1873-4			1872-3			1871-2			1870-1			1869-0			1868-9			1867-8			1866-7			1865-6			1864-5			1863-4			1862-3			1861-2			1860-1			1859-0			1858-9			1857-8			1856-7			1855-6			1854-5			1853-4			1852-3			1851-2			1850-1			1849-0			1848-9			1847-8			1846-7			1845-6			1844-5			1843-4			1842-3			1841-2			1840-1			1839-0			1838-9			1837-8			1836-7			1835-6			1834-5			1833-4			1832-3			1831-2			1830-1			1829-0			1828-9			1827-8			1826-7			1825-6			1824-5			1823-4			1822-3			1821-2			1820-1			1819-0			1818-9			1817-8			1816-7			1815-6			1814-5			1813-4			1812-3			1811-2			1810-1			1809-0			1808-9			1807-8			1806-7			1805-6			1804-5			1803-4			1802-3			1801-2			1800-1			1799-0			1798-9			1797-8			1796-7			1795-6			1794-5			1793-4			1792-3			1791-2			1790-1			1789-0			1788-9			1787-8			1786-7			1785-6			1784-5			1783-4			1782-3			1781-2			1780-1			1779-0			1778-9			1777-8			1776-7			1775-6			1774-5			1773-4			1772-3			1771-2			1770-1			1769-0			1768-9			1767-8			1766-7			1765-6			1764-5			1763-4			1762-3			1761-2			1760-1			1759-0			1758-9			1757-8			1756-7			1755-6			1754-5			1753-4			1752-3			1751-2			1750-1			1749-0			1748-9			1747-8			1746-7			1745-6			1744-5			1743-4			1742-3			1741-2			1740-1			1739-0			1738-9			1737-8			1736-7			1735-6			1734-5			1733-4			1732-3			1731-2			1730-1			1729-0			1728-9			1727-8			1726-7			1725-6			1724-5			1723-4			1722-3			1721-2			1720-1			1719-0			1718-9			1717-8			1716-7			1715-6			1714-5			1713-4			1712-3			1711-2			1710-1			1709-0			1708-9			1707-8			1706-7			1705-6			1704-5			1703-4			1702-3			1701-2			1700-1			1699-0			1698-9			1697-8			1696-7			1695-6			1694-5			1693-4			1692-3			1691-2			1690-1			1689-0			1688-9			1687-8			1686-7			1685-6			1684-5			1683-4			1682-3			1681-2			1680-1			1679-0			1678-9			1677-8			1676-7			1675-6			1674-5			1673-4			1672-3			1671-2			1670-1			1669-0			1668-9			1667-8			1666-7			1665-6			1664-5			1663-4			1662-3			1661-2			1660-1			1659-0			1658-9			1657-8			1656-7			1655-6			1654-5			1653-4			1652-3			1651-2			1650-1			1649-0			1648-9			1647-8			1646-7			1645-6			1644-5			1643-4			1642-3			1641-2			1640-1			1639-0			1638-9			1637-8			1636-7			1635-6			1634-5			1633-4			1632-3			1631-2			1630-1			1629-0			1628-9			1627-8			1626-7			1625-6			1624-5			1623-4			1622-3			1621-2			1620-1			1619-0			1618-9			1617-8			1616-7			1615-6			1614-5			1613-4			1612-3			1611-2			1610-1			1609-0			1608-9			1607-8			1606-7			1605-6			1604-5			1603-4			1602-3			1601-2			1600-1			1599-0			1598-9			1597-8			1596-7			1595-6			1594-5			1593-4			1592-3			1591-2			1590-1			1589-0			1588-9			1587-8			1586-7			1585-6			1584-5			1583-4			1582-3			1581-2			1580-1			1579-0			1578-9			1577-8			1576-7			1575-6			1574-5			1573-4			1572-3			1571-2			1570-1			1569-0			1568-9			1567-8			1566-7			1565-6			1564-5			1563-4			1562-3			1561-2			1560-1			1559-0			1558-9			1557-8			1556-7			1555-6			1554-5			1553-4			1552-3			1551-2			1550-1			1549-0			1548-9			1547-8			1546-7			1545-6			1544-5			1543-4			1542-3			1541-2			1540-1			1539-0			1538-9			1537-8			1536-7			1535-6			1534-5			1533-4			1532-3			1531-2			1530-1			1529-0			1528-9			1527-8			1526-7			1525-6			1524-5			1523-4			1522-3			1521-2			1520-1			1519-0			1518-9			1517-8			1516-7			1515-6			1514-5			1513-4			1512-3			1511-2			1510-1			1509-0			1508-9			1507-8			1506-7			1505-6			1504-5			1503-4			1502-3			1501-2			1500-1			1499-0			1498-9			1497-8			1496-7			1495-6			1494-5			1493-4			1492-3			1491-2			1490-1			1489-0			1488-9			1487-8			1486-7			1485-6			1484-5			1483-4			1482-3			1481-2			1480-1			1479-0			1478-9			1477-8			1476-7			1475-6			1474-5			1473-4			1472-3			1471-2			1470-1			1469-0			1468-9			1467-8			1466-7			1465-6			1464-5			1463-4			1462-3			1461-2			1460-1			1459-0			1458-9			1457-8			1456-7			1455-6			1454-5			1453-4			1452-3			1451-2			1450-1			1449-0			1448-9			1447-8			1446-7			1445-6			1444-5			1443-4			1442-3			1441-2			1440-1			1439-0			1438-9			1437-8			1436-7			1435-6			1434-5			1433-4			1432-3			1431-2			1430-1			1429-0			1428-9			1427-8			1426-7			1425-6			1424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Medical Secretary required for London Private Practice. Nursing experience an advantage. Good salary. Applications in writing with c.v.

Apply Box 0388 F, The Times

SECRETARIAL

University of Salford SECRETARY TO THE REGISTRAR

Experienced Secretary required for the University of Salford. The Registrar's Office is responsible for the normal secretarial duties of the Registrar. The successful candidate will be expected to deal with matters relating to the University, with some preliminary research or correspondence. The position is full-time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Salary within the range £3,900-£4,300 per annum.

Letters of application giving details of age, qualifications and experience, together with a recent photograph, should be sent to the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M6 6PU. By February 14, 1980. Awaiting references. A 561, 17.

PROPERTY

Small, busy, team of negotiators dealing in real estate, central London. Well-organized Secretary required to handle correspondence from clients to switchboard, as well as some administrative duties. The successful candidate will be expected to deal with matters relating to the property, with some preliminary research or correspondence. The position is full-time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Salary within the range £3,900-£4,300 per annum.

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Two top Secretaries are required at our attractive, new Group Headquarters in the centre of Windsor. Excellent salaries together with valuable benefits are offered in both cases. The first post, *Secretary to the Group Managing Director*, requires substantial experience at Board level. The second, *Secretary to the Managing Director - International*, requires several years' experience at senior secretarial level together with the personal initiative necessary to cope during his frequent overseas visits. For further information, please telephone Tony Child on Windsor (95) 57421, or write with details of qualifications and experience to him at: Rockware Group Ltd., Rockware House, 13/21 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berks.



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A newly formed International Sports and Marketing Consultancy in W1 needs an attractive, experienced, and capable person, to run its prestige offices. Typing, shorthand or speed-writing and a good telephone manner, are essential, but more important is the ability to cope under pressure and always remain unflappable! Salary is negotiable in excess of £5,500. For the right person this is the chance to be an integral part of an exciting and new venture in World Sport. Initial interviews will take place this Friday, 8th February. For an appointment please telephone Gideon Lloyd on 01-439 8127.

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Commonsense and flexibility are more important than brains for this varied and interesting position to work as part of a firm of Commodity Brokers. You will need to be well dressed and spoken and able to work on your own initiative in order to liaise with clients throughout the world and deal with all the office administration. You will, of course, get your just rewards as well as an excellent salary of £5,500.

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SECRETARY TO SENIOR PARTNER, able to work as part of team and handle clients mainly in the international world. Shorthand useful but mostly audio. Less than 10 years exp. Age 25-35. W.1.

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A leading West End Jewellers require an experienced well skilled Secretary to act as P.A. to their regional director. Perks include a free lunch, 4 weeks annual leave, own office, etc. Tel. Miss Penelope MacCane 01-539 6377/430 6530.

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Just down from Piccadilly Circus

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New, private, small but growing company in Knightsbridge requires an efficient, experienced secretary with a mature and responsible disposition. First class shorthand and typing essential (50/100). Knowledge of French an asset. 4 weeks holiday. Pleasant surroundings and friendly atmosphere. Contact Miss Brierly 734 4561 10 am to 5 pm

Circa £8,000 p.a. TOP P.A./SEC.

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We are looking for a dynamic person to join our team of consultants. You will visit clients to discuss their secretarial needs and select suitable applicants. Good commercial and city experience required. Age about 30. Please ring 01-493 8960

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An Office Manager/Secretary you will be fully involved. Co-ordinate the architects and their work - do book-keeping if you can read, pencil, architectural drawings. A happy busy office. If this sounds like you - call Carrie Roberts on 01-838 8025.

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Our client, a major company in the oil and petrochemical engineering field with offices close to Mornington Crescent Tube Station have an interesting and challenging position for a Secretary to Director of Sales.

Aged 25+, the successful applicant will have had senior secretarial experience, be able to work under pressure and be willing to work overtime when required.

The company offers, in addition to the excellent salary, an attractive benefits package including an annual increasing bonus, 4 weeks' holiday etc. Please write with career details, quoting ref T/.. or telephone:

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S.W.7. £5,600 Negotiable

The young MD of a Paper Co is looking for a PA/Secretary. The job is interesting, the office modern, and they require someone to join their small friendly team. Aged 25+, skills 100/50, 30p p.d. LVs and Company Pension Scheme.

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Senior Secretary/PA to work for the MD of a rapidly expanding Engineering Co. Aged 25+ with good secretarial skills you must be versatile and adaptable. Duties will include arranging meetings and lunches, etc. Generous benefits include 4 weeks' holiday, free commuting costs, non-contributory pension scheme and free life assurance.

Is your Personality buried beneath the paperwork?

Two Administrative P.A.s £5,000+

Buckingham Appointments is a very busy and successful firm of Recruitment Specialists with clients including many major UK and international companies.

Our continuing expansion creates these interesting opportunities for 2 highly capable administrative PAs, who can - with secretarial support - take over the running of the office.

You'll be helping Sales Managers, Personnel Managers and prospective candidates taking briefs, answering queries - so we're looking for friendly, outgoing, responsible people with a background in any of the following: Advertising Administration, Personnel Agency work or similar environment. Ring Tony Williams now, on 01-828 8232 or until 8.30 pm, Buckingham Appointments, 225 Victoria Street, London SW1.

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR - Entrepreneur Investment Co. seeks Administrator/Secretary to organize their office, staff recruitment and cope with the day to day problems of a busy office.

£5,000

NO SHORTHAND? Assistant with spoken French and good typing to join small friendly team involved in booking hotel accommodation for conferences, seminars, etc.

BOND ST BUREAU (Recruitment Consultants) 629 3692 629 0641

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Highly successful international co. in Mayfair seek an efficient and assured PA/Secretary (SH/Typ) 20+ to coordinate the company's international business. A varied and exciting career for someone who enjoys a degree of independence. Luxury car.

U.S. BROKERS P.A. £5,500
A busy, exciting, recently transferred from service company now seeks a young well educated and outgoing PA/Secretary (SH/Typ) 20+ to coordinate the company's international business. A varied and exciting career for someone who enjoys a degree of independence. French important.

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161 New Bond Street, London, W.1
Tel: 01-408 0444
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A partnership of Architects/Planners based in Central London and engaged in work in the UK and Overseas wishes to recruit two Senior Secretaries.

These posts require a high standard of secretarial skills and will especially attract persons with administrative abilities and a talent for organization. Previous experience in an Architectural or Engineering environment would be useful but not essential. Salary £5,000. Please Phone C. Dams, 01-323 3288, for an application form.

SALARY NEGOTIABLE FROM £6,000

Mature person for responsible key position in busy, private office of a financial services company near Sloane Square. We need someone to do some typing, some shorthand, some travel arrangements and some other initiatives for three directors.

SECRETARY c. £5,500

The Personnel Manager of a prestigious Bradford-based Company urgently requires a mature secretary with good organizational skills, a good computer, with high shorthand and typing speeds, to run with help of an Assistant the department of six staff.

The Best P.A.'s in London £5,000-£5,400

West End & City: Audio & Shorthand Management Consultants - Personnel Overseas recruitment arrangements and considerable administration, liaison and personal contact - City.

Head of Sales & Marketing
Complicated diary and travel, opportunities to deputise and take responsibility.

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Communication with all levels of personnel. Multi-national household name - West End.

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Needs young secretary to support all his legal and business responsibilities. Interesting and fast moving - W.1.

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Administrative Assistant to Company Secretary

Unicorn Industries Limited, a world leader in abrasive technology, urgently requires an experienced administrator at its pleasant Group headquarters opposite Windsor Castle.

The successful applicant will join a small team and will be responsible to the Group Company Secretary for the administration of the Group, insurance and Own-As-You-Earn Schemes, as well as the supervision of housekeeping and secretarial staff at Castle Hill House.

Salary according to experience.

Please telephone or write to:

Miss J. A. S. Bird
Assistant Group Secretary
Unicorn Industries Limited
Castle Hill House
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1LY
Tel. Windsor (07535) 54231

More a Manager than a P.A.

Salary neg. but not less than £5,500

Working as my Personal Assistant (often on your own) will involve you in far more than most secretarial jobs. I need someone to become really committed and interested in my business, social, lively company and other pursuits. Working in a lovely office a stone's throw from Bond Street tube you'll need senior secretarial experience combined with the confidence and maturity to cope with making decisions when I'm out. A little figure work is involved. Please telephone for a preliminary chat. 01-493 6464

£6,500

Our client, the European representative of an American Investment Bank needs a Personal Assistant. He handles a wide variety of projects from shipping and aviation companies to hotels and recording studios. He needs a career minded person to whom he can delegate and who is prepared to become involved in researching his clients needs. Good secretarial skills and business acumen required. Some travel.

Directors' Secretaries TEL: 01-629 9323
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

We require a Secretary to work with our Financial Director and Internal Audit. You will have your own office in attractive surroundings and three charming men (2 English and 1 American) to work for. Ideally you will be aged 25+ with experience of a financial environment and of working at Director level. Excellent typing is essential and a shorthand speed of 80 wpm will be acceptable. We will offer you a competitive salary, LVs, bonus and other fringe benefits.

For further details and interview, please telephone Brenda Proud or Sally Hill on 01-437 2885 or write to Stone & Webster Engineering Limited, 228 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8NA.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

We are a company of Stockbrokers and currently have a vacancy for a Secretary to the Director responsible for the company's Finance Department.

In addition to excellent shorthand/secretarial skills, we are looking for someone with good administrative ability and the maturity to work at a senior level.

For further information please contact Annette Culverhouse, Personnel Officer, House Govett Ltd., Haxon House, 319-325 High Holborn, London WC1.

Telephone 01-405 7507

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required for general administrative duties in an expanding architectural practice opposite Camden Passage, Islington. A demanding job for an experienced person in a busy informal atmosphere. Willingness to take initiative and develop management skills. SH, audio and accurate typing essential as back up to management duties. Salary approx. £5,500, depending on age and experience.

Write or Tel. to Jenny Gadd, DEVAPROSAD CHAKRAVARTI, 62/63 Upper St, Islington, N.1. Tel: 359 5491.

Secretary P.A. to President

Salary circa £5,000
President of large Shipping Company situated on River side at Newbury requires an experienced Secretary to assist in all aspects of secretarial work. Applicants must be used to working at top level, with confidential manner. Shorthand and audio required. Car owner-driver preferred. Please telephone: 01-676 0634 Mrs Beverly Jackson

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Personality Plus
£5,000 p.a. + excellent benefits
Top secretarial skills, a lively personality and a pleasing appearance are the requirements of this International Director. A challenging but rewarding position for an educated secretary who has the ability to organise and liaise at all levels.
Tel. Anne or Sue on 379 7444
Blue Arrow Staff Service

PER executive secretaries

City £6,500

Very efficient Senior Secretary required for Financial Director. Benefits are exceptionally good.

Tottenham Court Road £6,000

Good Secretarial Skills, some Admin. Experience. All the advantages and challenge of large thriving company.

Animal Lover £5,000

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Property

When home extension is the answer

House extension is becoming increasingly popular with those who need a little extra room but are unwilling to face the hazards and expense of moving house.

Apart from the question of planning permission, one point to be noted by anyone contemplating an extension is the amount of land available. If there is not very much there is a danger of creating an unbalanced property, with too much house and not enough garden.

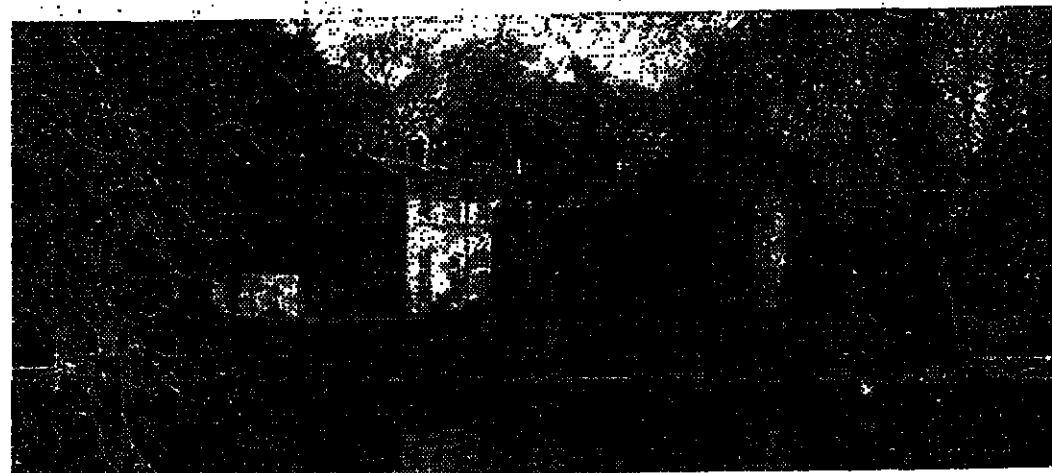
The location of the present house in its garden is also important. Those which are to one side of the existing garden are much better placed.

A good example is provided by Cherry Trees, in Mark Way, Godalming, Surrey, which has a garden of about half an acre. It was architect-designed in the late 1950s as an easily-managed house with few but comfortable rooms.

Present accommodation consists of an L-shaped drawing room about 20ft long, a dining room and three bedrooms. But the house is built well to one side of its plot and there is plenty of room to extend and still leave a good-sized garden. The property is for sale at £65,000 through Messenger May Baverstock, of Godalming.

In contrast, lack of space is not likely to worry an owner of Herne Place, in Sunningdale, Berkshire, an unusually spacious country house dating from about 1755.

Here, the living accommodation includes three main reception rooms, a study, music room and a bedroom. Upstairs are a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom, a nursery suite of three bedrooms, plus a further seven bedrooms. Two of



Sandlea Court, beside the Thames at Datchet, for sale leasehold at over £150,000.

these now form part of a small "granny" flat.

There is a basement complex which includes a billiard room, a bar room off it, a playroom, an occasional bedroom, with five further storage rooms. Gardens and grounds extend to about nine acres and include a paddock. As might be expected, an elegant building of this size is not cheap. Offers in the region of £350,000 are expected, and the agents are Giddy and Giddy, of Sunningdale.

More usual in size is a

pleasant property called Tretoots, at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The house was built of brick and timber with rendered walls at the beginning of the century and now displays some fine wisteria. It stands in about 6½ acres of grounds, with fine views across open countryside. The accommodation includes three reception rooms, a conservatory and six bedrooms. There are also a revolving sunroom and a swimming pool.

The grounds are made up of a paddock of three acres, an acre of woodland and about 2½ acres of gardens, which include a rocky area with a waterfall and ponds. The price is about £150,000 and the agents are Knight Frank and Rutley in conjunction with A. C. Frost and Co, of Henley. A further 24 acres could be purchased at option.

At the same price is a property called Blythe on the River Avon, at Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Constructed of Cotswold stone and built sometime in the

1930s, it was at one time known as The Cockpit. Entrance is by way of a courtyard surrounded by old stone buildings, with a games room and study in the part next to the house.

In the main part there are three reception rooms and five bedrooms, and a feature of the house is that it has both gas-fired and solar heating. There is also a detached stone cottage with two reception rooms and three bedrooms.

Gardens which total about 2½ acres include an area on the opposite side of the river, giving the property frontages on both sides of the Avon. On the opposite side a further nine acres of land could also be made available. The sale is through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Chipping Camden and London.

Also on the market at £150,000 and with a river frontage is Sandlea Court, at Datchet, Berkshire, held on a Crown Estate lease with about 70 years to run. One of the attractions of the property is that it has a frontage of some 920ft to the River Thames on which there has recently been considerable expenditure.

The house is brick built and has four reception rooms, mostly with french windows to the garden, seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. Gardens and grounds total about seven acres and include a small paddock. There is also planning permission for a garden playroom. The sale is through Knight Frank and Rutley.

Somebody looking for a traditional country cottage would be interested in Manor Cottage, at Abbots Ann, near Andover, Hampshire. The house is believed to date from about 1700 and has whitened flint and rendered walls under a thatched roof recently renewed with Test Valley reed.

Until recently it was used as two cottages and retains some of the features of a double dwelling, such as two staircases. There are three reception rooms, a good-sized kitchenette and utility room as well as a kitchen, and four bedrooms. The garden is bordered on two sides by old brick walls, and includes a vegetable plot. The price is about £55,000 and the agents are Maurice Beale and Partners, of Andover.

Another well-located country cottage is Hillcroft, at

Hatchet Gate, near Beaulieu, in the New Forest. It is a brick and slate cottage built about 1900 and recent modernisation has included the installation of double glazing and security locks.

There are two reception rooms, a farmhouse kitchen and three bedrooms. There is a garden of about one third of an acre and it has a good range of outbuildings. The price is £47,500 and the agents are Jackson and Jackson, of Lyndington.

A modern, architect-designed family house is Wood Aven, at Sevenhampton, about seven miles from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Built in 1970, of reconstructed Cotswold stone, it has two reception rooms, a study or extra bedroom, and three main bedrooms. The garden is about one-third of an acre and includes a greenhouse with an automatic watering and ventilation device, and also a natural stone-built cottage converted to provide a bed-sitting room and a kitchen. The price is £67,500, and the agents are G. H. Bayley and Sons, of Cheltenham.

Gerald Ely

Residential property



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PERSONAL CHOICE



Kenneth More and Angela Douglas in James Cameron's partly autobiographical play *The Pump* (ITV, 9.0)

● **The Moonies** (ITV, 10.30) ATV's investigation of the Unification Church led by the self-styled Rev Sun Myung Moon, who boasts that he will soon have the whole world in his hand and predicts that thousands of us will die in the process, digs deep into the sect's aims, teachings and financing, and comes up with very little that is credible to either the megalomaniac leader or his deeply smiling disciples. Sociologists, psychiatrists, ex-Moonies, the outgoing Archbishop of Canterbury—on to the screen they pop to deliver warnings about the sect or outright condemnation of it. At one point, things turn nasty as a cameraman gets a bloody nose in a scuffle on a London pavement. Tears flow from distraught lapsed Moonies and from parents whose son cannot be retrieved from the sect's embrace. An emotional documentary then, but disappointingly narrated by the reporter, Sue Jay.

● **James Cameron**, the master journalist, is only having us on when he says that his play *The Pump* (ITV, 9.00) is all invented, all imagined. We know full well it is his own story—seriously injured in a car crash in Bangladesh, flown back to Britain for heart surgery, hovering between life and death, not sure where the fact of his experience ends and where the fiction begins. I vividly remember Mr Cameron's factual fantasy when it began life as a BBC radio play in 1973, and it went on to win the Italia Prize for that year. Tonight, Kenneth More plays John Carter/James Cameron and James Cameron/John Carter is the narrator.

● **Graf Spee** (BBC 1, 9.25) hinges on the famous naval action in the River Plate in December 1939 when, after being locked in battle with three British cruisers, the German pocket battleship scuttled herself. David Howarth's documentary re-tells the story, but updates it with footage about British, German and New Zealand veterans of the battle who returned to the River Plate last year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the sea clash.

● **A rather touching concern** for the half-forgotten corners of Britain informs the Radio 2 series *Rolf's Walkabout* in which Rolf Harris, the genial Australian, coaxes local singers and other entertainers in front of the microphone so that they can enjoy a brief moment of national glory. So far, Mr Harris has brought transient fame to Little Downham in Wainfleet, East Droyton and Winstan, and tonight (Radio 2, 10.02) it is the turn of Hoddeston, Selop... Another musical odyssey, across the southern United States, reaches journey's end today (Radio 3, 2.55) when Anthony Wall, who has toured the South to discover the state of health of traditional music finds the blues in Los Angeles holding on to life only by its fingertips.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (S) STEREO; (B) BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

TELEVISION

BBC 1
6.40 am Open University. 6.48 Accidents. 7.05 Beginning M101. 7.30 Why Interdisciplinary Studies? Close down 7.35. 9.05 For Schools: Colleges. 9.05 Engineering (fiction). 9.35 It's Maths. 9.55 Let's Go (for mentally handicapped). 10.12 Home Economics (plant foods). 11.02 Maths. 11.25 You and Me: Our Doctor (r). 11.40 Schools. Colleges. 11.40 English (language at work). 12.05 Russian-Langue and People: part 4. Close down 12.30. 12.45 am News and weather. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Studio interview with Apollo astronaut James Irwin. Also Geoffrey Partridge's energy feature. 1.45 Playboard: Puppets. 2.01 Schools: Colleges. 2.01 Watch (pottery). 2.18 20th-century history (British alone). 2.40 Communicate (the newspaper cartoonists). Close down 3.00. 3.25 Children's Warden: Alan Ladbury shows how to make a simple coat (r).

3.55 Play: School: Michael Cole's story *The Oxen of Leda*. 4.20 Pate and Dixie: Cartoon. Sour Puss (r). 4.25 Jackanory: Steve Hodson reads from Nina Warner Hooker's book *Peppin*. 4.45 Fake Hart: 'Picture-making with Tony Hart, using a Chinese brush. British wit and French curves. 5.00 John Craven's Newsworld: Junior newscast, which can teach adults a thing or two. 5.05 God's Wonderful Railway: Episode 1 of new children's drama series about a small branch line of the Great Western Railway. Starts in 1962. 5.35 The Pershires: mini-comedy with Leonard Rossiter (r). 5.40 News: with Richard Baker. 5.55 Nationwide. 6.50 Film: *The Incredible Rocky Mountain Race* (1977). Adventure story about the race between Mark Twain (Christopher Connolly) and Mike Pink (Forrest Tucker) from St Joseph, Missouri, to the Pacific Ocean.

6.50 The Master Game: International chess tournament. Games of the United States, plays Michael Stean, of Great Britain. Jeremy James puts (and keeps) us in the picture. 7.20 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing. 7.30 Cricket: Highlights from the third Test between Australia and England. From Melbourne. 8.00 Mr Smith's London Garden: Geoffrey Smith and the rubber plants, Swiss cheese plants and the fig leaf palms. 8.25 Film: *Mame* (1974). Big comedy, colourful and lively, musical about an energetic aunt and her young nephew. There is just too much of everything, including (I'm afraid) Lucille Ball. Also stars Robert Preston and (as the nephew) Kirby Dragon. 10.15 Isaac Singer's nightmare and Mrs Pugh's Beard: Profile of the American novelist and short-story writer, based on one of his stories. Mrs Pugh's Beard: Short to Brooklyn, the setting of many of Singer's books. 10.45 Newsworld: The news and current affairs programme. 11.30 International Darts: The Embassy World. Professional Championship, from Stoke-on-Trent. Tonight's players include Jocky Wilson, making his first appearance in the championship. Finishes at approximately 12.15.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Family Matters. 9.52 Mr World (routes). 10.10 How We Used to Live (Victorian life). 10.33 French (songs, sketches). 11.04 Studio London (Songs). 11.16 Finding Out (Italy). 11.36 How We Used to Live (Victorian voters). 12.00 Adventures of Rupert Bear: The story of the night-rope walker. 12.10 pm Rainbow: Baa Baa Black Sheep. 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family serial. 1.00 News: with Peter Sissons. 1.20 The Squirrels: Office workers serial. Today: a robbery. 2.00 Atlanta: News. Three-cornered discussion on our postal service (union/Post Office/consumer) and interview with Alfred Marks. 2.45 The Outsiders: Australian drama series. Today: Charlie and Pete see an attempted murder, and are abducted. 3.45 Hobson's Choice: Chat show, with Derek Hobson. 4.15 The Sooty Show: The puppet band plus singer/banjo player Alan Tait, and Sweeney and Swo. 4.45 The Book Tower: Tom Baker with more books for children. 5.15 Mr and Mrs: Marriage quiz, with three couples revealing how little (or how much) they know about their spouses. 5.45 News: 6.00 Thames News. 6.25 Help: Useful information about arthritis, drugs you may be on, and help for spastics. Pre-empted. 7.30 Coronation Street: Ena Sharples proves to be a very demanding lodger at Elsie Tanner's house. 8.00 The Benny Hill Show: Mr Hill as the Scarlet Pimper (after Orson), and as many other outrageous characters (r). 9.00 The Pump: Kenneth More is the heart-operation patient in the play which journalist James Cameron based on his own experience after being injured in a crash. Also starring Mr More's wife Angela Douglas as a hospital sister (see Personal Choice). 10.30 The Moonies: Sue Jay's investigation of the Unification Church, run by the self-styled Rev Sun Myung Moon. It asks whether the Moonies are a genuine threat to Britons (see Personal Choice). 11.30 Barnaby Jones: Sister of Death: Did the nun (Sheila Lark) really murder her sister? (Sally Marr) Private eye: John (Buddy Ebsen) finds out. 12.25 am Close. More readings by Robert Rietty from the works of the theologian Nishnam of Brainerd.



Patricia Phoenix as Elsie Tanner: Coronation Street (ITV, 7.30)

RADIO

Radio 4
6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.30, 8.30 Headlines. 8.55 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 MN-Week. 10.00 News. 10.05 Gardener's Question Time. 10.10 Daily Service. 10.45 The Wooden Horse (13). 11.00 News. 11.05 Baker's Dozen. 12.00 News. 12.25 Play: The Trafalgar Terrace Lepidopterist: Casting Vote. 12.35 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Listen With Mother. 3.15 Play: The Prodigal, by Anita Bronson. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 4.15 Story: In Lower Town. 5.00 PM. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.30 My Music. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Checkpoint. 7.45 On The Town. 8.30 A Sideswaps Look. 8.45 Analysis. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Story: The Book of Tobias. 11.00 The Book of Tobias. 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.15-12.23 am Weather.

Radio 2
6.00 am News, weather. 5.04 Steve Jones. 7.32 Terry Wogan. 10.03 Colin Berry. 10.05 David Hamilton. 10.05 Ed Stewart. 4.03 Much More Music. 5.00 News. 5.05 Wagoners' Walk. 5.30 Much More Music. 10.00 John Durn. 8.00 Football: England v Republic of Ireland. Scotland v Portugal. 9.30 The Magic of the Musical. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Rolf's Walkabout. 10.30 Bernie Winters. 11.02 Brian Marshaw. 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.

Radio 3
6.00 am Cricket: Australia v England. 7.05 Weather. 7.10 News. 7.15 Records: Mozart, Liszt, Bach. 8.00 News. 8.05 Records: Mozart (Sym 31), Grieg, Hummel. 9.00 News. 9.05 Week's Composer: Berg (incl. Lyric Suite). 10.00 Spring: Parry, Dodgson, Murill. 10.40 Organ: Reger, Harris, Bach. 11.20 BBC Scottish 50/Rickenbacker, pt 1. Nicolai, Ravel. 11.55 Interval reading. 11.55 BBCSO, pt 2: Mendelssohn (Midsummer Night's Dream). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 String Quartet (RTE Academic). 1.10 News. 1.15 Broadcasting House: Enescu, Debussy. 2.05 Music Weekly. 2.55 All Across the USA: folk music. 3.55 Violin (Zivoni): Bach (Partita 11.1). 4.00 Clarinet, piano: Ireland, Finn, Bax. 4.55 News. 5.00 Music for early evening. 7.00 Songs (Fischer-Dieskau, Schubert). 7.15 Schubert. 7.40 Six Concertos: world news. 7.55 Songs, pt 2: Schubert. 8.45 Scientific Speaking. 9.30 BBC Northern 50/Slackin: Copland, Barber (Viv. Conc.). 10.00 News. 10.05 Melor: Orton Sunlight: Berg (Op 31). Haydn (Op 76 No 5). 11.55-12.00 News.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1068kHz or 255m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m. 97.3 VHF. Capital 194.5 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 266m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

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As Thames except: 1.25 am News, 1.30 am News, 1.35 am News, 1.40 am News, 1.45 am News, 1.50 am News, 1.55 am News, 2.00 am News, 2.05 am News, 2.10 am News, 2.15 am News, 2.20 am News, 2.25 am News, 2.30 am News, 2.35 am News, 2.40 am News, 2.45 am News, 2.50 am News, 2.55 am News, 3.00 am News, 3.05 am News, 3.10 am News, 3.15 am News, 3.20 am News, 3.25 am News, 3.30 am News, 3.35 am News, 3.40 am News, 3.45 am News, 3.50 am News, 3.55 am News, 4.00 am News, 4.05 am News, 4.10 am News, 4.15 am News, 4.20 am News, 4.25 am News, 4.30 am News, 4.35 am News, 4.40 am News, 4.45 am News, 4.50 am News, 4.55 am News, 5.00 am News, 5.05 am News, 5.10 am News, 5.15 am News, 5.20 am News, 5.25 am News, 5.30 am News, 5.35 am News, 5.40 am News, 5.45 am News, 5.50 am News, 5.55 am News, 6.00 am News, 6.05 am News, 6.10 am News, 6.15 am News, 6.20 am News, 6.25 am News, 6.30 am News, 6.35 am News, 6.40 am News, 6.45 am News, 6.50 am News, 6.55 am News, 7.00 am News, 7.05 am News, 7.10 am News, 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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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CHALLENGE

For departure
FOR

The snow is superb
CHALK HOLIDAYS SUPPLY
Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Chevrolet, Cerrillos,
Meribel, Tignes, Cour
SELF-CATERING HOLIDAYS
Val d'Isère, 4 or 6
All prices are
Garage, coach, train
described and winter

SKI
22 HOURS

Tel: 01-584 5060.
We are at
ABTA

FEBRUARY
£125
£209

These are final high-season
1980. Maribel and Vanda
also available in these top
travel. Ring now.

SKIM
193 Victoria
01

FRIENDS
FUN HOLIDAYS
18-35

SKIING—St John's. Aus
guaranteed great skiing
beginners and expert
runs. 26 lifts and 2

GREEK ISLAND PARTY
Explore, swim and
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